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ABSTRACT

This document compiles the six issues of Volumes 15 and 16 of the "Speak Out for Children" newsletter, published to strengthen families through education and to assist children of unwed parents, separation, and divorce. The Spring 2000 issue contains articles on Wisconsin's shared parenting law, the U.S. Senate's consideration of a fatherhood bill, and child custody jurisdiction. The Summer 2000 issue includes articles on required parent education seminars in Virginia, the Elian Gonzalez custody case, parent-child communication about difficult issues, and Equal Parents' Week. The Fall 2000-Winter 2001 issue includes articles on child abductions, connections between child support and joint custody, and relinquishing custody to get health care. The Spring 2001 issue includes articles on a compact disc produced to support the Children's Rights Council (CRC), extended overnight visits by infants with the noncustodial parent, and a graduate program on mediation. The Summer 2001 issue includes articles on the myth of the fading two-parent family, and terminology for stepfamilies. The third 2001 issue includes articles on the CRC's establishment of safe havens for children in six states, and parallel parenting strategies in high conflict divorces. Regular features of the newsletter include book reviews, notice of funding opportunities and conferences, news from individual chapters of the organization, descriptions of relevant court cases, and descriptions of pending federal legislation. (KB)

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David L. Levy, Editor

Children's Rights Council

2000-2001

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Spring 2000

Vol. 15-No. 1

Strengthening Families Through Education And Advocacy

ISSN 1042-3559

Assisting Children of Never-Married, Separated and Divorced Parents

SPEAK OUT FOR CHILDREN®

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Children's Rights Council, Inc.
300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002-4389 Phone (202)547-6227

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Wisconsin Adopts Strong Shared Parenting Law

Now 26 States with Joint Custody

Thompson

Children have won a victory in Wisconsin. Starting May 1, 2000, all courts in Wisconsin will be required to presume joint legal custody is in the best interest of the child and to set as a goal "a placement schedule that allows the child to have regularly occurring, meaningful periods of physical placement with each parent and that maximizes the amount of time the child may spend with each parent."

Additional changes included in a bill passed by the legislature and signed by Gov. Tommy Thompson (R) are:

- similar treatment of children in paternity and divorce cases (except for temporary orders);
- requiring parents to submit parenting plans;
- reducing to 1% per month the interest on child support arrears;
- limiting the liability for past child support to the time of filing of a legal action instead of the date of birth of the child;
- penalties for interfering with court ordered placement; and
- a provision for establishing a study committee to review the role of guardians ad litem.

New Law Presumes Joint Legal Custody and Regular, Meaningful Contact between Child and Parents.

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Please Plan on Attending CRC's 13th National Conference

Washington, D.C.
May 4–6, 2001

Reception at the British Embassy to Benefit CRC

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CRC is a member of

Children's Charities of America

The CRC

The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a nation-wide, non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) children's rights organization based in Washington, D.C.

CRC works to strengthen families through education and advocacy. We favor family formation and family preservation, but if families break up, or are never formed, we work to assure a child the frequent and continuing contact with two parents and extended family the child would normally have during a marriage. Our motto is "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

For the child's benefit, CRC favors parenting education before marriage, during marriage, and for parents who are unwed or separated. We work to demilitarize divorce between parents who are involved in marital disputes, substituting conciliation and mediation for the adversarial process, and providing for emotional and financial child support. We work to strengthen fragile families of children whose parents are unwed. We also favor school-based programs for children at risk.

Formed in 1985 by concerned parents who have more than 40 years collective experience in custody reform and early childhood education, CRC has chapters in 32 states and two national affiliate organizations: Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC) and the Stepfamily Association of America (SAA).

Prominent professionals in the fields of religion, law, social work, psychology, child care, education, business, and government comprise our Advisory Panel.

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Wisconsin

Continued from page 1

Bipartisan Effort Succeeded

These provisions and a bipartisan effort from the Budget Conference Committee, "put Wisconsin into a leadership role in dealing with the national problem of many fathers (and some mothers) being disenfranchised from their children by outdated laws and the gender bias which exists in our legal system," said Jan Raz, president of Wisconsin Fathers for Children and Families, one of the groups that assisted the Parents' Rights Coalition in getting this bill passed (Raz's e-mail is jraz@execpc.com).

This bill had its origins almost five years ago, when approximately 15 grass roots groups came together under the name of "Parents' Rights Coalition" to discuss problems surrounding the Family Court System in Wisconsin. These groups had many separate concerns, i.e., grandparents rights, juvenile justice issues, paternity cases, single parents, noncustodial access to children, financial child support, court discretion, family rights, parents rights to help raise their children, and relocation of children.

Over 16 months and lots of compromise and discussion, all those left at the table agreed on language and intent of the original bill which revamped the state chapter on family law and some of the children's code.

George

"Senator Gary George (D) was courageous enough to spearhead the drafting and introduction of the bill into the Senate," said Rob Eisenbart, president of the Coalition. "When support for the bill grew, so did concerns by politicians and resistance from other groups, including Victims of Domestic Abuse Advocates, court commissioners, and family lawyers. Lawmakers questioned whether the bill would make too much of a change to existing law.

At public hearings, supporters outnumbered opposers almost every time. Using data, personal stories, and support from some of the judiciary, as well as data showing that children do better when both parents are allowed to stay involved, the legislature moved forward.

Sen. George Spearheaded Effort in Wisconsin Senate for Shared Parenting

Under pressure from lawyers and abuse advocates, the Wisconsin Bar Family Law section redrafted the bill, gutting about 50% of the original bill, and Gov. Thompson line item vetoed more, said Eisenbart. At best, 25 to 30% of the original bill was left. "It is a start and the new law is an improvement," he said.

Governor Wants Both Parents Involved

Governor Thompson's press release October 22, 1999, stated he was signing the law because he wanted "major changes to the state's child custody law that encourage both parents to be involved in raising their children." The Governor said "We need to do more to make sure both parents are fully involved in the raising of their children, particularly fathers."

Eisenbart, a CRC lifetime member, and long-time advocate/paralegal for a child's rights to be with both parents, is concerned that the new law leaves discretion for bureaucrats and lawyers to oppose shared parenting. He says he and others will closely watch how the law is implemented.

Clair Wiederhold, a director of legislation for Kids and Dads, one of the groups that helped bring about passage of the legislation, said: "Some attorneys, guardians ad litem, court commissioners and judges already apply many of these principles in present cases. However, most don't. This legislation should establish a more uniform, statewide goal of securing the best interest of children by allowing children to have both parents fully involved in their lives. Wisconsin has begun to recognize that dads as well as moms count in their children's lives."

Many Helped Gain Passage

The Parents' Rights Coalition, along with Wisconsin Fathers for Children and Families, Citizens for Family Law Reform, and Legislation for Kids and Dads, worked long and hard from the beginning.

"Judge James Welker of Wisconsin is probably the most supportive judiciary officer in the state," said Eisenbert. "He helped influence the Wisconsin State Bar's Family Law Section into making sweeping reforms in the paternity section of this new law. Without him and some of the bar's support, the bill may not have been signed by the governor," said Eisenbart.

Eisenbart said there is still no protection from:

- one parent moving away with the children;
- courts obstructing or terminating parental relationships without compelling or significant reason; and
- treating children like trophies to be won in an adversarial process fueled by special interests and money.

"We should enjoy this program, but not lose sight of the hard work yet to be done," Eisenbart concluded.

26 States and D.C. Have Joint Custody

According to a 1997 American Bar Association publication, 19 states plus the District of Columbia have some form of presumption for joint custody, either legal, physical or legal an physical. They are Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Texas and Washington, D.C. Also California, Connecticut, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, Vermont and Washington. In some of those states, there is a presumption for joint custody only if both parents agree. The states that have added some form of presumption since the ABA report are Alabama, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Levy

The CRC View

by David L. Levy, J.D.
President, CRC

The "Divorce Industry" Results in Poverty for Children and Parents

I read a book recently about how difficult it is to end poverty because there is a well-intentioned but misguided "poverty industry" that serves to perpetuate poverty through top-down run programs instead of enabling poor people to work toward their own economic self-sufficiency.

It reminded me of the "divorce industry" that is also generally well-intentioned, but whose result is the continued financial and emotional poverty of many children, because non-custodial parents are seen as the problem rather than as part of the solution. Many non-custodial parents are affected by divorce, and are impoverished emotionally and financially by the evils of the divorce system.

Robert L. Woodson, Sr., author of "The Triumphs of Joseph", tells the Biblical story of Joseph who was imprisoned by Pharaoh, but when the ruler had a nightmare he and his soothsayers could not understand, it was the young man from the dungeon who was able to interpret it for him and thereby save the kingdom.

Woodson sees Joseph as a prototype of the men and women who battle daily to change lives in our poorest neighborhoods. While many such modern "Josephs" exist, Woodson argues, their efforts are too often ignored or disparaged by "Pharaoh's courtiers"—the people who have a vested interest in the existence of poverty and racial tension and have drawn attention away from solutions to the problem.

It is no wonder, Woodson writes, that just as the expenditures of billions of dollars has not resulted in significant reduction in poverty, because the "Pharaohs" who run programs keep "Josephs"—poor people—uninvolved in their own emancipation from poverty.

He tells of Washington, D.C., where a decades-old law that prohibited "bootblacks" from the District was used against a black entrepreneur who had set up a thriving business of shoe-shine stands throughout the city, staffed by bow-tied employees, many of whom had formerly been unemployed.

In another case, a hair salon whose practice was limited to braiding hair was threatened with termination because D.C. regulations ruled that its stylists had to pass the same cosmetology exams as beauticians whose use chemical treatments.

As these entanglements with red tape show, it is not the race of the "Pharaohs" but the rules of the game that determines whether the "Josephs" who want to lift themselves out of poverty are allowed to do so or not.

The "Pharaohs" treat the poor as clients rather than as participants who should be involved in creating their own self-sufficiency.

Woodson, founder of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise in Washington, D.C., and a MacArthur " genius" grant recipient in 1990, argues that the healing agents in our culture—churches, neighborhood groups, community organizations—must be unleashed to go to work where the efforts of government have failed.

Parents Not Consulted on Solutions

How many times have separated, divorced or never-married parents been treated as deadbeats and outcasts unconcerned with the support of their own children, and thus unentitled to help solve the problem of child impoverishment.

Reduction of poverty was cited by Sen. Russell Long in 1980 as the main reason for the new national financial child support collection system.

Now, 20 years later, despite financial child support collections having quadrupled because of a huge federal and state bureaucracy, liens, interception of tax returns, jailings, midnight arrests, posting of the "10 Most Wanted" lists, booting of cars, etc., the poverty rate for children remains essentially unchanged.

The 1999 Current Population Report (website www.childstats.gov), reports that 18 percent of children in all families lived in poverty in 1980, and 19 percent in 1997. 51 percent of children in single mother headed houses lived in poverty in 1980, and 49 percent in 1997. The reason poverty is essentially unchanged is that America continues to encourage single-parent families for the same reasons that Woodson gives for programs designed to aid the poor—a bureaucratic indifference and hostility to involving the people affected by government decisions in the own solutions.

The child support bureaucracy, family law attorneys, courts, expert witnesses, sheriff's departments, are all part of the divorce industry. Tens of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars are at stake if this industry's dominance over children and families is not questioned.

More Awareness that Children with Two Parents do Better

Fortunately, there is a change in the wind. There is a greater awareness in Washington and elsewhere in the country that children do better when they have two parents.

Two-parent families, preferably married, but also if the parents are never married, separated or di-

vorced, provide the best financial and emotional insulation for children.

Single parents do a super-human job for their children, but generally just cannot provide as much financial and emotional support as two parents can.

CRC has helped bring about this change over the years, as have many other people and organizations. I believe a big reason for the change is the research that has piled up like a mountain.

This mountain shows that crime, drugs, academic achievement, and every other measurement of social behavior by children is improved if a child has two parents.

In other words, public safety, the safety of the average person in the streets, is affected by how we treat families. Those people are voters, and political leaders want to be seen as doing something for public safety.

Thus, Congress introduces fatherhood bills, and communities across the country establish fatherhood programs that did not exist 5 years ago. In fact, these are parenting bills and parenting programs, because the effect will be to give children both a father and a mother in more instances.

There is a big question, however, as to how these programs will be run. Will they be run top-down, rather than bottom-up, will they involve the very parents who are emotionally and financially responsible for supporting their children, or will they become so bureaucratic that we will not be able to recognize their worth?

I like the idea of this outreach to parents, but I am troubled by the fact that the divorce industry still fuels sole custody adversarial battles all around the country, and that a huge bureaucracy still treats parents of separation and divorce as people to be acted on rather than included in solutions to the problem.

Children deserve better.

Senate Considers $150 Million Fatherhood Bill

Senate Considers Bill to Help with Emotional and Financial Support of Children

The Senate is considering a "Responsible Fatherhood" bill (S. 1364) that would provide $150 million to encourage the role of fathers as parents in low-income families and to help fathers better provide for their children.

The Senate bill is a counterpart to the "Fathers Count Act" (H.R. 3073), passed by the House of Representatives on November 10, 1999, by a vote of 328 to 93. **CRC Prefers Passage of the House Bill (H.R. 3073).**

Sponsors of the Senate bill are Sens. Pete Domenici (R-NM) and Evan Bayh (D-IN). A hearing should have been held by the time you receive this newsletter by the Senate Finance Committee, chaired by Sen. William Roth (R-DE). If such a hearing has not already been held, it is questionable whether the legislation will become law this year. Sponsors of the House version of the bill (The "Fathers Count Act") are Reps. Nancy Johnson (R-CT) and Ben Cardin (D-MD), who spoke on the House floor in November, 1999 strongly in favor of its passage.

Congress is considering this legislation as part of its continuing efforts on welfare reform and welfare-to-work initiatives. With many mothers now coming off welfare, Congress knows that they must have the financial help of fathers. But the legislation goes beyond welfare-to-work incentives, and encourages the role of fathers as parents in low-income families and to help fathers better provide for their children. Some observers have referred to this bill as a parenting bill, because it will have the ultimate purpose of assisting children to have more involvement by both parents in their lives. Some services and programs are expected to reach out to low-income mothers and divorced parents.

Domenici

Bayh

Sponsors of Senate Bill

Previous legislation that helped parents to function as parents is the $10 million a year in access (visitation) funds that Congress has provided to the states since 1997.

Grants Would be for Public and Private Organizations

The $150 million would be for grants to public and private organizations which promote marriage through counseling, mentoring, and enhancing relationship skills. The bill will encourage local efforts by requiring that 75% of the funding goes to non-governmental community based organizations. Preference for funding would go to organizations which promote successful parenting, through disseminating information about good parenting practices, including family planning, encouraging child support payments and regular access between fathers and their children.

It would assist in aiding fathers and their families to avoid or leave the welfare system, by providing activities such as job training, subsidized employment and education to advance job opportunities and careers.

Child Custody Jurisdiction

How to Decide Which Court Decides

Michael L. Oddenino

Oddenino

The Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act (UCCJA) and the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA) are legislative responses to the child custody jurisdiction problem. The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction is the international response.

The UCCJA began as a model act which became virtually universal state law. The PKPA, on the other hand, is federal law.

The UCCJA creates a two-prong approach to determining which court decides a custody case. First, a general class of jurisdiction is established for custody cases. Second, the law provides a mechanism intended to vest the right to exercise jurisdiction in only one state at any given time. The UCCJA and the PKPA supersede all conflicting or contradictory laws.

The UCCJA, the PKPA, and the Hague Convention apply only to those who have a right to custody.[1] The UCCJA and the PKPA each prescribe four bases for jurisdiction: (1) home state; (2) significant connection, plus evidence regarding the best interests of the child; (3) emergency; and (4) default jurisdiction (no other state has jurisdiction or has declined it). The bases may overlap, so concurrent jurisdiction is common and conflicts of jurisdiction often occur.

For example, the "home state" may not be the same state as the one in which the parties have "significant connections" and where there is "substantial evidence" about the child's best interests.[2]

The UCCJA, the PKPA, and the Hague Convention on Child Abduction are all designed to prevent child abduction as well as providing a mechanism for determining which court has the right to decide a custody case. These laws address the problems arising when one parent breaches another's right to custody by removing the child from his "home state" or "habitual residence" and takes him to another jurisdiction, or when the parent retains the child in violation of another's custodial rights or interests.

Determining Which State Has Home State Status

The primary factor for determining if a state has jurisdiction to decide a custody case is the "home state" status, where it is assumed that one will find the maximum amount of evidence on the child's interests. The "home state" is the jurisdiction in which the child has lived with his or her legal custodian for at least six months or a state which was the "home state" within six months of filing. (For example, if a family lives in state A for one year, state A is the home state. If the same family lived in state A for one year and then one parent moved to state B with the children and filed in state B after living in state B for only four months, state A is still the home state).

The UCCJA also allows a state to exercise jurisdiction on the basis of the children having "significant connections" with that state. Thus, under the UCCJA, even though state A is the home state, state B might exercise initial jurisdiction on the basis of significant connections. The PKPA intended to eliminate this possibility by making the "home state" the exclusive state to exercise initial jurisdiction notwithstanding that some other state had "significant connections." This is a major distinction between the UCCJA and the PKPA.

These laws are also designed to avoid forum shopping, jurisdictional competition, and duplicative litigation. They establish a scheme for determining which court among one or more state courts has jurisdiction, or, if more than one has jurisdiction, which should claim it.

The UCCJA and the PKPA are also designed to facilitate and promote communication among courts which have or may have concurrent jurisdiction. They require all states to honor prior custody orders. A court that receives information on possible ongoing custody litigation in another state should communicate with the appropriate court in that state. The law actually calls for a judge in state A to communicate with a judge in state B.

The UCCJA provides subject matter jurisdiction and is the exclusive method of obtaining it in child custody cases. Subject matter jurisdiction is determined by statutory definition (e.g., certain length of residence) and may not be conferred by consent of the parties. Absence of subject matter jurisdiction may be raised by the trial court or the parties at any stage of the proceedings.[3]

Home State Jurisdiction Predominates

The UCCJA establishes a system of concurrent and potentially conflicting jurisdiction. The bases for jurisdiction are hierarchical and continuing jurisdiction always prevails. Home state jurisdiction predominates over significant connection jurisdiction. Emergency jurisdiction will trump either of those bases, but it is temporary. Finally, if no state has jurisdiction on the basis of UCCJA or PKPA rules, the state in which the child and a party are domiciled may claim it.

The law eliminates potentially endless procedural custody litigation by placing the bases of jurisdiction in the aforementioned descending preferential order and by providing for virtually exclusive continuing jurisdiction in the original decree state.[4] In addition, to achieve fairness and cooperation, mechanisms for communication and for declining jurisdiction were included.

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Continuing Jurisdiction

Once a court properly exercises jurisdiction in a child custody matter, that state is deemed "the decree rendering state."[5] For example, if state A were the home state and the judge in state A conferred with the judge in state B where a parent filed after only four months claiming significant connections, and those judges determined that state A should exercise initial jurisdiction, state A would then have a hearing and render a custody decree. Assume one parent continues to reside in state A while the other parent resides in state B with the children pursuant to state A's decree. Two years later the parent in state B wants to modify the custody or visitation schedule. What happens?

State B is now the home state as the children have lived there for two years. State A is the decree rendering state as the initial and current order was rendered in state A. Only state A has the right to exercise jurisdiction even though state B has home state jurisdiction because state A enjoys the continuing jurisdiction of the decree rendering state. Thus, state B cannot properly exercise its jurisdiction unless state A specifically declines to exercise its continuing jurisdiction.

Continuing Jurisdiction in the International Arena

The dominance of continuing jurisdiction also applies to international cases where a custody order has been rendered under a law consistent with the UCCJA.[6] For instance, a California decision decided by a California Family Court and affirmed by the Appellate Court held that the California courts had jurisdiction, under the UCCJA, to determine the custody of a minor Mexican national.[7] The minor, although a Mexican national, had resided in California for several years with her Mexican national parents. The Court stated that one of the primary objectives of the UCCJA is to "avoid the disruption to the life of a child involved in relitigation of custody matters ... [O]nce a custody order is entered by a court with jurisdiction under [the UCCJA], that court has continuing exclusive jurisdiction [which prevails over any other basis].[8]

The court also held that no treaty or other source of international law precludes California courts from claiming jurisdiction in a case properly brought. California was "home state" and the state "with the most significant connection" to the parents and the minor child and substantial evidence relating to the minor child's well-being. Some courts construe the UCCJA to apply internationally only when a foreign custody order is at issue.[9] Other states apply the general policies and objectives of the UCCJA to all custody jurisdiction disputes, including those in the international context.[10]

Child Abduction

Since the 1970s, the State Department says it has been contacted for help in about 11,000 international child abductions where a parent was involved.[11] The Justice Department reports some 354,100 cases of parental abductions a year, but fails to identify how many are international.[12] The State Department estimates an average of 400 to 500 new international cases per year, a number critics charge is a vast underestimate. A recent study by the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law shows that in 60 percent of international abduction cases, the children are never returned even though their whereabouts are known.[13] This study shows that parents spent an average of $33,500 in search and recovery of their children, and a quarter of left-behind parents spent $75,000 or more.[14]

UCCJA section 23 provides that the general policies of UCCJA extend to the international arena. The provisions of UCCJA relating to the recognition and enforcement of custody decrees of other states apply to custody decrees and decrees involving legal institutions similar in nature to custody institutions rendered by appropriate authorities of other nations if reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard were given to all affected persons. The same goes for the general policies and objectives of the UCCJA and the PKPA.[15]

Parental kidnaping is a federal felony, calling for up to three years imprisonment.[16] It is also a felony in most states.[17] The federal felony provides at least three affirmative defenses: (1) custody or visitation award to defendant pursuant to UCCJA; (2) flight from a pattern of domestic violence; and (3) defendant had proper physical custody and failed to return the child for reasons beyond his control.[18]

The Hague Convention

The UCCJA and the PKPA are not the only laws on international jurisdiction over child custody. In 1980, the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction was formed to complement our UCCJA and PKPA in the international arena.[19] The Hague Convention is different from the UCCJA and PKPA in that it does not create recognition and enforcement standards, but demands the prompt restoration of the custody that existed before the alleged abduction.[20]

The United States ratified the Hague Convention in 1986. It went into effect in 1988, upon the enactment of its enabling legislation, the International Child Abduction Remedies Act (ICARA).[21] This Act provides that it "shall apply to any child who was habitually resident in a contracting state immediately before any breach of custody or access rights."[22] The Convention's stated purpose is "to secure the prompt return of children wrongfully removed to or retained in any Contracting State," and "to ensure that rights of custody and of access under the law of one Contracting State are effectively respected in the other Contracting States."[23] The Hague Convention's underlying policy is primarily to ascertain a speedy return of an abducted child to the state in which he or she was a habitual resident, without undertaking a full investigation of the case's merits.

The remedies of the Hague Convention may be invoked when two threshold issues have been satisfied by a preponderance of the evidence.[24] First, the moving party must establish that he or she had lawful custody rights when the child was wrongfully removed or retained. Second, the removal or retention must be from the child's "habitual residence." Articles 3 and 5(a) of the Con-

Continued on page 8

Child Custody

Continued from page 7

vention provide that the removal or retention is wrongful when "(a) it is in breach of rights of custody attributed to a person . . . under the law of the state in which the child was a habitual resident immediately before the removal or retention; and (b) at the time of the removal or retention, those rights were actually exercised, either jointly or alone, or would have been so exercised but for the removal or retention." Custody rights are determined by the law of the child's "habitual residence," a term left undefined in the Convention and in the United States' implementing legislation, leaving the issue to be decided upon the facts and circumstances of the case.[25] United States courts have held that the terms of the Convention are to be construed narrowly.[26]

Conclusion

The framework of laws determining proper exercise of custody jurisdiction is sufficient to answer most custody dispute problems. While some judges create problems by not knowing or following the jurisdictional guidelines, forum shopping in custody cases is not nearly the problem it was before the implementation of these laws. Armed with the knowledge of the "off the rack" dictates of the jurisdictional laws, an attorney can provide clients with advice well worth the fees charged.

1. Johnson v. Johnson, 493 S.E.2d 668 (Va. Ct. App. 1997); In re Prevot, 59 F.3d 556, 560 (6th Cir. 1995); Caban v. Healey, 634 N.E.2d 540 (Ind. Ct. App. 1994); 42 U.S.C. 11603(3)(1)(A) (1994).
2. See, e.g., In re Joseph D., 23 Cal.Rptr.2d 574 (Cal. Ct. App. 1994); In re Marriage of Alexander, 623 N.E.2d 921 (Ill. App. Ct. 1993).
3. Cordie v. Cordie, 538 N.W.2d 214, 216 (N.D. 1995).
4. See, e.g., Kessenich v. Kessenich, No. FA-960053295S, 1996 LEXIS 1517 (Conn. Super. Ct. June 11, 1996) (The fact that Connecticut had become the home state and had most significant connection and most evidence were not sufficient for Connecticut courts to modify a Michigan custody decree, where former husband continued to live in Michigan. Michigan resolved the problem by declining jurisdiction.); McDow v. McDow, 908 P.2d 1049, 1051 (Alaska 1996) (a court may not modify another state's custody decree if the latter court retains jurisdiction).
5. See, e.g., Chapoteau v. Chapoteau, 659 So.2d 1381 (Fla. Dist. App. Ct. 1995).
6. In re Stephanie M., 867 P.2d 706 (Cal. 1994); In re Fischer, 666 So.2d 724, 725 (La. App. 4th Cir. 1995); Koester v. Montgomery, 886 S.W.2d 432 (Tex. Ct. App. 1994) (UCCJA applies internationally as far as due process notice and similar requirements are concerned); Ruppen v. Ruppen, 614 N.E.2d 577 (Ind. Ct. App. 1993) (deferred to Italy).
7. In re Stephanie M., 867 P.2d 706 (Cal. 1994), cert. denied sub nom. See also Mendez v. San Diego County Dep't of Soc. Servs., 513 U.S. 937, 115 S. Ct. 337 (1994).
8. Id.
9. E.g., Ivaldi v. Ivaldi, 672 A.2d 1226 (N.J. Super. Ct. App. Div. 1996); Koons v. Koons, 615 N.Y.S.2d 563, 567 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. 1994).
10. E.g., Black v. Black, 441 Pa. Super. 358, (1995) (applying UCCJA to international child custody disputes and construing the definition of "state" to encompass foreign nations); Dincer v. Dincer, 666 A.2d 281, 284 (Pa. Super. Ct. 1995); In re Stephanie M., 867 P.2d 706 (Cal. 1994); Zenide v. Superior Ct., 27 Cal.Rptr.2d 703 (Cal. Ct. App. 1994); Ruppen v. Ruppen, 614 N.E.2d 577, 582 (Ind. Ct. App. 1993).
11. Timothy W. Maier, Insight on the News: Kids Held Hostage, News World Communications, Inc., March 8, 1999.
12. Id.
13. Id.
14. Id.
15. Winton-Ibanez v. Ibanez, 690 So.2d 1344, 1346 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 1997) (the general policies of the UCCJA apply internationally).
16. 18 U.S.C. 1204 (1994).
17. In California, the applicable statute is Penal Code Section 278, which states "Every person, not having a right to custody, who maliciously takes, entices away, keeps, withholds, or conceals any child with the intent to detain or conceal that child from a lawful custodian shall be punished by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars ($1,000), or both that fine and imprisonment, or by imprisonment in the state prison for two, three, or four years, a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars ($10,000), or both that fine and imprisonment."
18. 18 U.S.C. 1204 (1994) provided that the defendant make reasonable efforts to notify the other legal custodian of the problem within 24 hours of the end of his visitation period.
19. Hague International Child Abduction Convention, 51 Fed. Reg. 10498 (1986); Department of State, Treaties in Force 328 (1989); Exec. Order No. 12,648, 53 Fed. Reg. 30637 (1988).
20. See Martin J. Bodzin, Comment, International Parental Child Abduction: The Need for Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Custody Decrees, 3 Emory J. Int'l Dispute Res. 205, 212 (1989).
21. 42 U.S.C. 11601-11610 (1994).
22. Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, Ch. I, art. 4.
23. Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, Ch. I, art. 1, (a), (b); Merideth v. Merideth, 759 F. Supp. 1432, 1434 (D. Ariz. 1991).
24. In re Prevot, 59 F.3d 556, 560 (6th Cir. 1995).
25. Merideth v. Merideth, 759 F. Supp. 1432, 1434 (D. Ariz. 1991).
26. E.g., Rydder v. Rydder, 49 F.3d 369 (8th Cir. 1995).

Contact Other CRC Members by E-mail

Send and receive e-mail from other CRC members around the country.

If you are a CRC member, e-mail the following message to Harry Prillaman, CRC Coordinator for Georgia, who is supervising the email for members. He can be reached at ppilla@us.ibm.com

Dear Harry. I am a national CRC member who would like to join the crc-general@egroups.com distribution list.

Call the CRC national office at 202-547-6227 or fax 202-546-4272 to make sure your national membership is current.

We thank Bladen Lithography in Gaithersburg, MD for providing printing services to CRC.

National Child's Day June 4

Join with Churches or Plan Your Own Children's Day Celebration

Graham

Senator Bob Graham (D-FL) is again introducing a resolution in the Senate to declare the first Sunday in June, as "National Child's Day." National Children's Day is observed by many churches on the first Sunday in June. CRC and its chapters join in observing that date, which this year falls on June 4, because it is nestled between Mother's Day and Father's Day, where a Children's Day ought to be!

CRC urges children's advocates to join in church or synagogue celebrations, or have parties or other events for children. We will print several of your letters or reports on Children's Day activities in a future CRC newsletter.

This is the Senate resolution Sen. Graham is introducing, the same as last year's resolution.

RESOLUTION

Designating the first Sunday in June *of each calendar year as "National Child's Day."*

Whereas the first Sunday of June falls between Mother's Day and Father's Day;

Whereas each child is unique, a blessing, and holds a distinct place in the family unit;

Whereas the people of the United States should celebrate children as the most valuable asset of the United States;

Whereas the children represent the future, hope, and inspiration of the United States;

Whereas the children of the United States should be allowed to feel that their ideas and dreams will be respected because adults in the United States take the time to listen;

Whereas many children of the United States face crises of grave proportions, especially as they enter adolescent years;

Whereas it is important for parents to spend time listening to their children on a daily basis;

Whereas modern societal and economic demands often pull the family apart;

Whereas, whenever practicable, it is important for both parents to be involved in their child's life;

Whereas encouragement should be give to families to set aside a special time for all family members to engage together in family activities;

Whereas adults in the United States should have an opportunity to reminisce on their youth to recapture some of the fresh insight, innocence, and dreams that they may have lost through the years;

Whereas the designation of a day to commemorate the children of the United States will provide an opportunity to emphasize to children the importance of developing an ability to make the choices necessary to distance themselves from impropriety and to contribute to their communities;

Whereas the people of the United States should emphasize to children the importance of family life, education, and spiritual qualities;

Whereas because children are the responsibility of all people of the United States, everyone should celebrate children, whose questions, laughter, and dreams are important to the existence of the United States; and

Whereas the designation of a day to co*mmemorate the children will emphasize to the people of the United States the importance of the role of the child within the family and society; Now, therefore, be it*

Resolved, That the Senate

(1) designates the first Sunday in June of each year as "National Child's Day"; and

(2) requests the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and

CRC Needs

- Free office space. Get a tax write-off as you help kids and CRC. 1,200 square feet or more anywhere in the Washington, D.C. area (Maryland, D.C. or Virginia).
- A new photocopy machine.
- Volunteers to help with filing, phone calls, and writing letters.
- Our chapters need computers.
- Lawyers to write CRC Amicus Briefs on appeal.

Our chapters around the country could use office space, photocopiers, and volunteers, too!

Family Facts is not in this issue; it will resume in the next issue.

The Elian Gonzalez Case

CRC filed a Friend of the Court brief in the Elian Gonzalez case because of the concern over the thousands of children who have been kidnapped by a parent or who have problems obtaining access to a parent.

CRC asked that Elian Gonzalez be returned to his surviving parent—immediately. CRC filed a "Friend of the Court" brief with the Federal District Court in Miami stating that U.S. and international law requires that Elian be returned to his country of "habitual residence," which in this case is Cuba.

That was the decision made by Federal District Court Judge Michael K. Moore on March 22. CRC said the appeal of the decision should be decided while the boy is in Cuba.

The CRC brief was written by CRC General Counsel Michael L. Oddenino and filed with the court in February.

Friend of the Court briefs are filed by organizations asking a judge to take a particular look at a case because it affects people beyond the reaches of the parties in the particular case before him.

CRC held two press conferences in February at the CRC office in Washington, in which CRC focused on the relationship between Elian and the thousands of other families in the U.S. whose children are being held in a foreign country by a parent. We also mentioned the many children who are being withheld from or alienated from their non-custodial parents.

It will be harder to obtain return of those children, or to improve access/visitation/parenting time for children and parents, if the U.S. does not return Elian to his surviving parent, CRC President David L. Levy said.

The U.S. is a party to the Hague Convention against International Parental Abduction, which requires that a child be returned to the "country of habitual residence." Also, the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act, a U.S. law, requires return of the child to the home state or home country.

A hearing on Elian was held March 1 before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT). Most of the invited testimony was focused against Castro and his dictatorship government, but Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) asked that a representative of CRC testify about Elian and other families.

Japan Does not Allow Access by Non-Custodial Parent

Benda

CRC recommended Walter Benda, head of CRC's Japan chapter, to testify because his two daughters have been held by the mother in Japan, who has allowed Walter no contact with the children, Mari, now age 11 and Ema, now age 9, in five years.

But Walter and others are working to change the system in Japan. He told the Committee that the action the U.S. takes regarding Elian would have repercussions on the thousand of cases involving American children retained or abducted to foreign countries.

Benda's appeal to the courts in Japan to allow him access to his children have gone unheeded.

Benda's heartfelt testimony, in which he talked of the thousands of other parents, like himself, who will be adversely affected if the U.S. does not follow a "return" policy for children, won praise from Hatch and Leahy. But there was no indication that Hatch, chairman of the committee, will change his belief that Elian should remain in the U.S.

Earlier in February, Benda represented CRC at a press conference on Capitol Hill organized by the National Council of Churches, the church group which visited Elian's father and grandparents in Cuba. Walter was the only parent with an international abduction case.

Members of Congress who spoke in favor of re-uniting Elian with his only surviving parent include Charles Rangel (D-NY) and Maxine Waters (D-CA).

Danger for Elian

Psychiatrists have testified that Elian is suffering trauma and that after 4 months, the trauma may result in permanent personality disorders. The four months since Elian was found off the coast of Florida expired around March 25.

See Benda's testimony at www.senate.gov/~judiciary

Beat the Tax Man: Contribute to CRC

Keep working for children. If you wish to consider leaving a bequest or property to CRC, please state the following in your will: "I hereby leave the following to the Children's Rights Council: — (state your bequest)."

CRC General Counsel

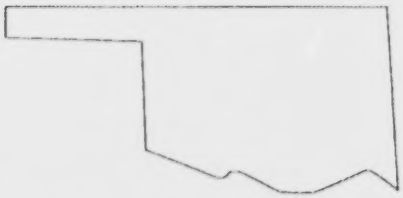
CRC General Counsel Michael L. Oddenino's email address is kidfirst@msn.com

His website is www.oanglaw.com

CRC Info

Fax: 202-546-4272
Website: www.gocrc.com
E-mail: crcdc@erols.com
Parenting Website: www.info4parents.com

Around the Country



Oklahomans Rally for Stronger Families

The Governor of Oklahoma, members of Congress, state legislators, and representatives of more than 40 organizations participated in the third annual Oklahoma Pro-Family Day Rally at the State Capitol in Oklahoma City on Valentine's Day.

The largest ever Pro-Family Day rally ever, focused on the consequences of family breakdown and of families that never form, said Dr. Gregory J. Palumbo, of Oklahomans for Families Alliance, an organizer of the rally. He said children, grandparents, and extended family members from communities from across Oklahoma and surrounding states participated in the rally..

Speakers included Governor Frank Keating (R), Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK), Jerry State cabinet Secretary of Human Services Jerry Regier. and Sanford L. Braver, Ph.D., of Arizona State University, author of "Divorced Dads, Shattering the Myths," who spoke about the results of his research.

Speakers emphasized how marriage, family stability, choices made by young adults to have children out-of-wedlock, and the adversarial nature of divorce and family breakdown can either increase the chances of children doing well or doing poorly, said Palumbo.

"The community of interests, goals, and roles of each organization in promoting and strengthening families in Oklahoma was also better conveyed than ever before," said Palumbo.

The rally received state-wide publicity from print, radio, and TV, prior to, during, and after the rally,

Palumbo's e-mail is g.palumbo@worldnet.att.net

Groups Often on Opposite Sides of the Fence Join Together for Children

by Michael Munz
St. Charles County Post

Groups that are often on the opposite side of the fence joined forces in March for a "Child Advocacy Day" in Jefferson City, Missouri, the state capital.

About 15 members from the local chapters of the Association for Children for Enforcement of Child Support (ACES), American Coalition for Fathers and Children (ACFC), and CRC thought they would be more effective if they joined forces.

"We were talking the same story from different perspectives," said Marty Witbeck, of ACFC, after meeting with Peggy Walker, the ACES coordinator, prior to the joint venture.

Walker said that she expected the groups to get a lot more attention by working together. "It's going to turn some heads," she said, "because we're normally at odds on how we want the system to change."

The changes the groups recommended at Jefferson City included:

- Open access to court records and data based on judges' rulings;
- Standardized summaries of judges' decisions detailing the responsibilities of both parents. The summaries should be maintained in the case files;
- Cameras and recordation should be allowed in Family Court in order to keep an accurate record of evidence and decisions;
- Having all judges elected instead of appointed;
- Setting up a lay review board to review complaints about judges' decisions.
- Having guardians ad litem (attorneys representing the children) chosen by a lottery system instead of appointed by a judge;
- Changing Missouri statutes covering divorce to include the phrase "rights of children" to help remind judges that children need shared parenting in the majority of cases.

Scott Field, chair, CRC of Eastern Missouri, and other CRC members, participated.

ACES can be contacted at 314/947-3922, ACFC at 314/963-5252, and CRC at 314/963-4668.

Network with Other Organizations and Hold a Rally in Your State Like Those in Oklahoma and Missouri.

A Prayer

Thy Kingdom

Let the reign of Divine Truth, Life, and Love be established in me, and rule out of me all Evil, Sin, Disease, and Death; may thy word enrich the affections of all mankind, and govern them.

Equal Parents' Week 2000

Hold a Vigil Sept. 27 at 8 P.M. EST
Help Publicize "The Best Parent Is Both Parents"

Equal Parents' Week will be held September 25 to October 1, 2000.

Candlelight Vigils will be held around the country and abroad on Wednesday, September 27, at 8 p.m. EST. The vigils will focus on "A Moment in Our Hearts, a Moment of Solidarity."

Last year, 17 organizations throughout the U.S. and three organizations in foreign countries joined CRC in observing Equal Parents' Week, a number that is expected to grow this year, said Patti Diroff, CRC's Equal Parents' Week national coordinator.

Diroff said it is important to establish a national priority which requires a 2-parent focus as the national policy governing all legislation affecting families, both intact and non-intact. "Requiring that legislation be scrutinized against a 2-parent focus is the most effective way to implement a framework that will be positive for children," she said.

"'Just Say Yes to Joint Custody" will soon be available as a new button. "Statutes and judges should require parents to 'just say yes' to making a commitment to doing what is truly in children's best interests."

Equal Parents' Week packages will be mailed soon to CRC chapter heads and other groups so they can begin organizing their efforts as well as spread the word to family, friends, and other organizations.

Comments and participation are always welcome. Phone Patti at 909/591-3689. email her at pattidiroff@worldnet.att.net, or see her webpage at http://members.tripod.com/epweek

New National Organization to Educate on Parental Alienation

Stuart-Mills

A new national organization has been founded to promote research and education on the Parental Alienation Syndrome.

The non-profit organization, called the Parental Alienation Syndrome Research Foundation, is based in Washington, D.C., just a few blocks from the White House.

The PASRF boasts a high-powered Scientific Advisory Committee, including many of the world's best-known experts and authors on PAS. These include, among others, Stanley Clawar and Brynne Ruvlin, Richard A. Gardner, Deirdre Conway Rand, Richard Warshak, Douglas Darnall, as well as Judge Vernon Nakahara, California Attorney Patrick Clancy, and Pamela Freyd of the False Memory Syndrome Foundation.

Parental Alienation Syndrome is a well-identified group of symptoms that may occur when a child is taught to denigrate a parent, often in the context of a high-conflict divorce or child abduction. Observers credit Richard Gardner with first identifying and defining the Syndrome.

The Foundation will work to foster and promote research and educate judges, professionals and the public on how to recognize and treat PAS, said the Foundation's Executive Director, Pamela Stuart-Mills. Particular emphasis will be placed on developing protocols for treatment, especially reintegration of children with the "hated" parent, an area where little research exists, treatment protocols are at best ineffective, and can even worsen the situation, said Stuart-Mills.

Stuart-Mills is well-known in this field as the founder of PAIN (Parental Alienation Info. Network, 1991). She is joined by Heidi Griffin, J.D., Director of Legal Research; and Ingrid Horton, administrator, as well as volunteers and interns.

A reception was held in late February to introduce the Foundation to individuals and groups interest in the PAS. "There is widespread positive response to this new national organization devoted to scientific research and reintegration of alienated children and families," said Stuart-Mills.

For more information, contact the PAS Research Foundation, at 816 Connecticut Avenue N.W., 9th floor, Washington, D.C. 20006, phone 202/466-7778, fax 202/466-7779, e-mail: info@npafoundation.org.

Parental alienation must be distinguished from parents who are protecting their children from harmful conduct by the other parent.

Please Help!

An anti-joint custody provision originally appeared in Section 241 of H.R. 3514, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) II and a 1998 House Joint Resolution (HJR 182), which thanks in part to efforts of CRC members was not adopted. A similar anti shared parenting provision was re-inserted in the 1999 version of the Violence Against Women Act, H.R. 357, introduced by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich) and supported by 178 co-sponsors. CRC members were urged to write to Congress opposing the "primary caretaker" parent language in Section 241.

So many of you wrote in opposition to that anti-joint resolution, that opponents of shared parenting have now "watered down" the anti-joint custody resolution. We must oppose that resolution, also, but first let us explain that CRC is very concerned about family violence, and the need to prevent it and treat it. Family violence is not acceptable. CRC works with advocates to prevent and reduce family violence. Researchers have found, however, that there is no link between shared parenting and family violence. Quite the reverse. Family violence, as well as other societal problems, including high crime and drug rates, lower academic performance, teenage suicide, promiscuity, and other society problems, are linked to a different kind of family structure—the single parent family.

Many children of single-parent households turn out fine, but statistically, anti-social behaviors have been linked for the past 30 by all researchers to a lack of two parents in a child's life. As just one example, the 6 year old boy who shot and killed a 6 year old girl in a school in Michigan was growing up a crack house without either his father or his mother.

The watered down version of the anti-joint custody resolution in H.R. 3315 states:

It is the sense of Congress that for the purpose of determining child custody, it is not in the best of children to:

1) force parents to share custody over the objection of one or both parents where there is a history of domestic violence; or

2) make "friendly parent' provisions a factor when there is abuse of one parent against another or a child.

Please photocopy or retype this letter and send to your House member. Get your friends to write, also!

Date
Your address

Congressman (add name)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear —

I ask you to please oppose Title VI, Sec. 601 of H.R. 3315 (The Ready Act—reducing the Effects of Abuse and Domestic Violence on Youth). **I am concerned that the language of the resolution might mistakenly convey an impression to federal, state, or local policymakers that domestic violence shares a link in some manner with shared custody.**

This would be a terrible disservice to all children at risk from family violence. There is abundant evidence that the great majority of child victims of physical abuse and neglect live in single parent homes. By contrast, the incidence of child abuse and neglect of children in shared legal and physical custody arrangements is very low. Children raised without their fathers as well as mothers are twice as likely to be victims of abuse and five times as likely to live in poverty compared to children both of whose parents, dads and moms, participate in the parenting process.

The language of the resolution is over-broad.

The use of the terms "history of domestic violence" and "abuse" might be subject to overly-expansive interpretation. States should design their own specific, detailed statutory criteria narrowly tailored to those limited instances in which shared or joint custody would be inappropriate.

For example, although the District of Columbia starts with a presumption for joint custody, there is an exception in those instances where a judicial officer finds by a preponderance of the evidence that an intra-family offense as defined in the D.C. Code has taken place.

Most parents are loving and fit, and thus shared parenting should not be discouraged, even through a well-intended resolution.

Sign your name

Get a 3.9 percent CRC Credit Card

Get the CRC VISA Credit Card, and obtain a low 3.9 percent introductory rate. The credit card displays the CRC logo, and CRC receives a small contribution every time you use the card. CRC receives more if you break up a large purchase into several small purchases. For an application, contact CRC, or call MBNA at 1-800-523-7666. If you have trouble obtaining approval, contact CRC; we can't guarantee approval, but we will gladly try.

Inside CRC

Cathrine Meyer Receives Award

Meyer

CRC's Honorary President Catherine Meyer has received the Adam Walsh Rainbow Award from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Adam Walsh Children's Fund.

The Rainbow Award ceremony each year recognizes distinguished leaders whose efforts have made a different for children.

The rainbow is a symbol of hope, and was a prominent feature of Adam Walsh's last drawing. Adam was 6 years old in 1981 when he was abducted by a stranger outside a shopping center in Hollywood, Florida; his body was found 2 weeks later.

Meyer is Honored for Her Work on Behalf of Missing and Exploited Children

The Adam Walsh Children's Fund is part of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Catherine Meyer was one of eight people, public and private sector leaders, local, national, and international, who were honored at the awards ceremony in Florida on February 25.

Lady Meyer, whose two children are being held in Germany by the children's father, has not been allowed by the father to have contact with the children for the past 5 years. She has publicized the plight of internationally abducted children in Congressional testimony and in appearances around the country.

She authored the book "They Are My Children, Too," and is the wife of the British Ambassador to the U.S.

Teresa Kaiser NewCRC Board Member

Kaiser

CRC is pleased to announce that Teresa L. Kaiser, the head of the Maryland Child Support Office, has been elected as a member of CRC's Board of Directors.

Teresa has long fought for emotional as well as financial support for children. Some of her accomplishments:

- When she was head of the Idaho Child Support Office, and Idaho was considering license revocation, she recommended that Idaho also suspend licenses for interference with access visitation, and the balanced law was passed. (Iowa became the second state to provide for license revocation for access interference). Teresa also headed the Missouri child support office before being tapped for the Maryland director's job.
- She is one of the first state child support directors to implement "forgiveness" for past due child support in exchange for participation in a targeted program, such as employment search program, substance abuse treatment, or other programs to help parents get a job, pay their financial support, and get connected to their children.
  This "forgiveness" program was authorized by Federal Child Support Commissioner David Gray Ross;
- She helped lead the way among child support directors in recommending that Congress focus on cases with collections, not the previous requirement that the state collect the highest amount possible, even if it meant impoverishment for the payor. Now, if a state can collect current support owed plus $1, this case satisfies requirements for the states' performance-based incentive payments from the federal government.

Kaiser has spoken at past CRC conferences. Her office sponsored a display from her Child Support Office at CRC's 1999 conference that showed a father and mother both involved in a child's life.'

"The best possible result for children is the involvement of both parents in their lives," she said. "I am honored to be a board member of CRC in order to promote parental involvement in children's lives.

Kaiser, an attorney, is the mother of three daughters, and the sister to five brothers. Her children are Bridget, who is also an attorney, Rosemary, and Micaela.

First Child Support Director Elected to CRC Board

Eloise Anderson Newest CRC Advisor

Anderson

California Department of Social Services, who is now Director of the Program for the American Family, Claremont Institute, Sacramento, California, is the newest member of CRC's Family Advisory Board.

Advisors make recommendations to CRC from time to time on what they think the direction of CRC should be.

When she was Director of Social Services in California, she would often talk to mothers in welfare offices, and if they seemed able-bodied, she would ask

Why don't you have a job?, why aren't you working to become self-sufficient? Where is the child's father?

Favors Self-Sufficient Two-Parent Families

Eloise's bold, pro 2-family approach drew national attention, including an appearance on CBS's "60 Minutes" where she was shown asking mothers the above questions.

Eloise spoke at a past CRC conference.

She is an advisor to the Bush campaign on family issues. Eloise is the mother of two grown children, a son and a daughter.

The Year 2000 is CRC's 15th Anniversary

We appreciate everyone who has worked for children and CRC. We thank all those who have enabled CRC to improve the lives of children and families. So many have given so much, of their time, efforts, and financial contributions.

For the year 2000, CRC has three new levels of support of CRC. They ares: .

* A PLATINUM LIFE MEMBER is one who donates $5,000 or more
* A GOLD LIFE MEMBER is one who donates $2,500 to $4,999.
* A SILVER LIFE MEMBER is one who donates $1,000 to $2,499.
* A LIFE MEMBER is one who donates CRC $500 to $999.

Anyone who has contributed to CRC in the past may increase the donation to reach any of the life member levels. If you are unsure about your previous donation level, contact CRC, and we would be glad to let you know. Thank you.

Meet the CRC Staff

Al

Lonnie

LaShahn (left) and LaJuan

Mattie

Julie

ChiChi (left) and Caroline

Alfred L. Ellis is CRC's Director of Child Access Services. He supervises the six child access centers CRC has established in Prince George's, Anne Arundel and Montgomery Counties in Maryland, and Fairfax County, Virginia. Al has 3 children and 3 stepchildren with his wife Mary.

Lonnie Perrin, who has worked for 15 years with young parents in the Washington, D.C. area, is supervising CRC's new website, www.Info4Parents, which is primarily to provide information, resources and referrals for never-married parents; but the site is, of course, open to anyone for viewing. Lonnie has something in common with CRC Board member Sam Brunelli—he is a former football player for the Denver Broncos. But Lonnie was also a running back for the Chicago Bears and the Washington Redskins. He is married and has 5 children.

LaJuan Ayers has been CRC's bookkeeper for almost two years. She has two sons, Antonio and Robert.

LaShahn Ayers, LaJuan's identical twin sister (they even dress alike) is a part-time administrative assistant.

Rev. Mattie Nance is a part-time administrative assistant, who runs a small ministry that helps feed the homeless on Capitol Hill, in Washington, D.C.

Julie Maggiacomo is a long-time CRC volunteer. She works from her home.

Lenora Williams is a volunteer in the CRC office two days a week; Kamilah, the daughter of Lenora and her late husband, is in her second year of law school.

Caroline Cohen, ChiChi Nwoko, and Tiffany Adkins are Spring, 2000 college student interns.

Children's Rights Council

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for parents and professionals

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BOOKS FOR KIDS

NEW!

A Heart Full of Love, written by Bette S. Margolis, illustrated by Christie L. Kline. A wonderful book for that special 7- to 9-year-old in your life who is undergoing parental divorce.
SB-101 ---------- $15.00

I Love You More Than..., by Elizabeth Hickey and James Cohen. Illustrated by Lynda Smart Brown, 1998.
HB-102 ---------- $16.95

Daddy Day, Daughter Day, by CNN's Larry King and Chaia King, 1997. A true story of divorce told through both a child's and a father's perspective.
SB-103 ---------- $12.95

How to Survive Your Parent's Divorce: Kids Advice to Kids, by Gayle Kimball, 1994. Easy-to-read one-of-a-kind guide for young people and their parents as they reshape their lives post-divorce.
SB-104 ---------- Reg. $9.95 *Discount Price $4.00

I Think Divorce Stinks, by Marcia Lebowitz, 1992. Helps children recognize that it is appropriate to have negative feelings about divorce and to express those feelings.
SB-105 ---------- $4.95

What am I Doing in a Stepfamily?, by Claire Berman, 1994. A children's book explaining how two families can be better than one.
SB-106 ---------- $12.00

It's Not Your Fault, Koko Bear, by Vicki Lansky, 1998. Koko Bear can help children understand divorce and sends a good message.
SB-107 ---------- $5.99

The Divorce Workbook, by Sally Ives, David Fassler & Michelle Lasch, 1985 How to facilitate honest and open communication between adults and children at the traumatic time of separation and divorce. Q and A for kids.
SB-108 ---------- $15.95

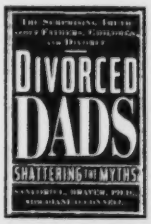
My Book, My Self for Boys, by Linda Madaras and Area Madaras, 1995. The "What's Happening to My Body for Boys."
SB-109 ---------- Reg. $11.95 *Discount Price $6.00

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

50/50 Parenting, by Gayle Kimball, Ph.D. Almost 300 co-parents and 83 children report on life in Married, Divorced, and Step-family situations.
SB-201 ---------- $9.95

Divorce Book for Parents, by Vicki Lansky, 1987. Warmly supportive and reassuring, this comprehensive guide speaks to all divorced and divorcing parents.
HB-203 ---------- $6.00

The Divorce Help Source Book, by Margorie Engel, 1994. Combines sound advice with hundreds of potential sources of help to assist you in getting the results you deserve.
SB-204 ---------- Reg. $17.95 *Discount Price $7.00



Divorced Dads, Shattering the Myths, by Sanford L. Braver, Ph.D., 1998. The surprising truth about fathers, children and divorce.
HB-205 ---------- $24.95

For the Sake of the Children, by Kris Kline and Stephen Pew, 1992. Discusses how to share your children with your ex-spouse despite your anger. Kline is CRC's Florida coordinator. PHOTOCOPIES ONLY!
HB-206 ---------- Reg. $18.95 *Discount Price $9.00

Divorce: Crisis, Challenge, or Relief?, by David A. Chiriboga and Linda S. Catron, 1991. Addresses the impact of divorce on children through different stages of their lives.
SB-207 ---------- Reg. $22.50 *Discount Price $5.00

Why Parents Disagree: How Women and Men Parent Differently and How We Can Work Together, by Dr. Ron Taffel, 1994. An explanation of why parents begin to lead different lives and how parents can raise kids as partners, not enemies.
SB-208 ---------- $23.00

The Good Divorce, by Constance R. Ahrons, Ph.D., 1994. An outstanding book with a powerful message: while divorce is not 'good,' there is a path to a 'good divorce' where parents cooperate fully for the sake of their children.
HB-209 ---------- $23.00

A Hole in My Heart, by Claire Berman, 1991. A book that will enable adult children of divorce to recognize the role they play in changing patterns in their lives.
SB-210 ---------- Reg. $10.00 *Discount Price $5.00

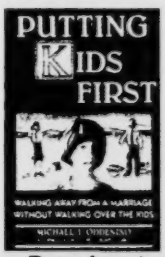
Families Apart, by Melinda Blau, 1993. 10 Keys to Successful Co-Parenting. A blend of the author's own research, and that of other experts, and rich in anecdotal information.
SB-211 ---------- Reg. $22.95 *Discount Price $10.00

REVISED!

Mom's House, Dad's House, by Isolina Ricci, Ph.D., 1998. Making shared custody work: How parents can make two homes for their children after divorce. 100 **New** pages to this classic book!
SB-212 ---------- $20.00

Negotiating Love: How Women and Men Can Resolve Their Differences, by Riki Robbins Jones, 1995. Points our destructive habits by both genders which, when realized, strengthen families and relationships.
SB-213 ---------- $14.00

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Surviving Divorce, by Paula Weintraub and Terry Hillman, 1996.
SB-214 ---------- Reg. $16.95 *Discount Price $7.00



Putting Kids First, by Michael Oddenino. A must read for caring parents and professionals, by CRC's General Counsel. Includes a children's bill of rights.
SB-215 ---------- $9.95

Second Chances, by Judith Wallerstein and Sandra Blakeslee, 1989. Based on ten year longitudinal study of the effects of divorce on adults and children.
HB-216 ---------- Reg. $14.95 *Discount Price $5.00

Surviving the Break-Up, How Children and Parents Cope with Divorce, by Judith Wallerstein, Ph.D. and Joan Kelly, Ph.D., 1980. A classic that is still valid in discussing the problems of children being raised by single parents.
SB-217 ---------- Reg. $14.00 *Discount Price $10.00

REVISED!

Creating a Successful Parenting Plan, by Dr. A. Jayne Major. Nationally acclaimed author of "Breakthrough Parenting" and "Winning the Custody War Without Casualties"
SB-218 ---------- $24.95

3 Steps to a Strong Family, by Linda and Richard Eyre, 1994. A 3-step program that can make your family life happier, less stressful, and more rewarding.
HB-219 ---------- $19.50

Familyhood: Nurturing the Values that Matter, by Dr. Lee Salk, 1992. A practical, inspiring guide to communicating values.
HB-220 ---------- Reg. $21.00 *Discount Price $10.00

The Best Parent is Both Parents: A Guide to Shared Parenting in the 21st Century, the CRC book edited by David L. Levy. Order bulk copies (10 or more) for only $4 a copy, resell the copies for the list price of $10 each, and make a profit for you or your organization! Individual copies will continue to be available from CRC for $10 each, plus $4 for postage, as long as supplies last. If you would like copies (individual or bulk order) autographed by David L. Levy, just state to whom you would like it autographed (yourself, perhaps your children—give their names).
SB-221 --------- Order 10 copies or more each only $4.00
---------- Individual copies $10.00

Helping Your Kids Cope With Divorce, by M. Gary Neuman, L.M.H.C. 1996. This book is based on the nationally renowned "Sandcastles" workshop.
HB-222 ---------- $25.00

The Sibling Society, by Robert Bly, 1996, author of "Iron John." Describes our culture as one where adults remain children, and children have no desire to become adults—a nation of squabbling siblings.
HB-223 ---------- Reg. $25.00 *Discount Price $12.00

NEW!

Ceasefire, by Cathy Young, 1999, syndicated columnist. Why women and men must join forces to achieve true equality; how that will help children, too.
HB-224 ---------- $25.00

Saying No Is Not Enough, by Richard Schwebel, Ph.D., 1989. Raising children who make wise decisions about drugs and alcohol.
SB-225 ---------- $11.00

Abolition of Marriage, by Maggie Gallagher, 1996, syndicated columnist. How we destroy lasting love.
HB-226 ---------- $25.00

Friends for Life, by Susan Jonas and Marilyn Nissenson, 1997. Enriching the bond between mothers and their adult daughters.
HB-227 ---------- $29.00

Talking Back to Ritalin, by Peter R. Breggin, M.D., 1998, 4-time guest on Oprah. What doctors aren't telling you about the dangers of stimulants.
HB-228 ---------- $25.00

BOOKS FOR STEPPARENTS

How to Win as a Stepfamily, by Emily Visher, Ph.D. and John Visher, M.D., 1982. The co-founders of the Stepfamily Association of America answer questions and give suggestions on how to make stepfamilies work.
HB-301 ---------- $13.95

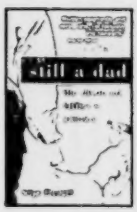
Making it as a Stepparent, New Roles/ New Rules, by Claire Berman, 1986. Former president of the Stepfamily Association of America provides practical help and insights.
SB-302 ---------- $7.95

Stepfamilies Stepping Ahead, edited by Mala Burt for the Stepfamily Association of America.
SB-303 ---------- $9.95

BOOKS FOR GRANDPARENTS

Grandparenting in a Changing World, by Edna LeShan, 1997. "Common sense presented with uncommon grace." —Kirkus Reviews.
SB-401 ---------- Reg. $12.00 *Discount Price $6.00

BOOKS FOR SINGLE PARENTS



Still a Dad, The Divorced Father's Journey, by CRC's own Serge Prengel, 1998. Published with praise from Warren Farrell, Karen DeCrow, and James A. Cook.
SB-2501 ---------- $13.95

Surviving Divorce—Women's Resources After Separation, by Mavis Maclean, 1991. Women coping with earnings, maintenance and welfare in the U.S., France, and Great Britain.
HB-502 ---------- $5.00

Another Way Home: A Single Father's Story, by John Thorndike, 1996. A memoir of Thorndike's life with his wife and the difficult decisions he has had to make regarding their son's life.
HB-503 ---------- Reg. $24.00 *Discount Price $12.00

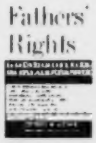
Fatherless America, by David Blankenhorn, 1995. Shows the devastating consequences of fatherlessness in both individual families and in our society.
HB-504 ---------- Reg. $23.00 *Discount Price $10.00

The Masculine Mystique: The Politics of Masculinity, by Andrew Kimbrell, 1995. Presents the argument that American men are in crisis and includes what lead to this phenomenon.
HB-505 ---------- Reg. $23.00 *Discount Price $10.00

The Daddy Track and the Single Father, by Geoffery L. Greif, 1990. A book about successfully coping with kids, housework, a job, an ex-wife, a social life, and the courts.
HB-506 ---------- $19.95

Money-Smart Divorce. What Women Need to Know about Money and Divorce, by Esther M. Berger, 1996.
SB-507 ---------- $22.00

Why Men Are the Way They Are, by Warren Farrell, 1986. Provides insights into loved one's secret insights and desires.
SB-509 ---------- Reg. $5.99 *Discount Price $3.00



Fathers' Rights, by Jeffrey Leving. A best-selling book for fathers who want to maintain contact with their children.
SB-510 ---------- $12.50

The Divorced Parent: Success Strategies for Raising Your Children After Separation, by Stephanie Marston, 1994. Provides practical advice and specific tools for raising well-adjusted children.
HB-511 ---------- $21.00

Father's Day, by Bill McCoy, 1995. Witty and wise notes from a new dad in the real world.
HB-512 ---------- Reg. $22.00 *Discount Price $11.00

Like Father, Like Son, By Hunter S. Fulghum, 1996. A collection of stories on being a man at midlife in America, with introduction by Robert Fulghum.
HB-513 ---------- Reg. $21.95 *Discount Price $11.00

Child Custody Made Simple, by Webster Watnik, 1997. Answers all your questions about child custody and child support for a single parent.
SB-514 ---------- $21.95

The Single Parent's Money Guide, by Emily Card, 1996. A plan for managing your money when you are the only one your family can count on.
SB-515 ---------- Reg. $14.95 *Discount Price $6.00

Questions from Dad, by CRC Spokesperson and pop singer Dwight Twilley, 1994. A very cool way to communicate with your child. Introduced by Dr. Susan Forward.
SB-516 ---------- $17.00

I Am the Mother of Sons. Poems by Jayne Jaudon Ferrer, 1996. Illustrated by Lina Levy.
HB-517 ---------- $10.00

Men on Divorce—The Other Side of the Story, edited by Penny Kaganoff and Susan Spano, 1997.
SB-518 ---------- Reg. $12.00 *Discount Price $6.00

One Swell Dad, by Pat Ross, 1992. The book of memories and expressions of fatherly endearment from the past.
HB-519 ---------- $9.00

MEDIATION & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Family Evaluations in Child Custody, Mediation, Arbitration and Litigation, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1989. In this update, Gardner proposes a three-phase system to remove child custody evaluations from courtroom litigation.
HB-601 ---------- $45.00

Healing Hearts, Helping Children and Adults Recover from Divorce, by Elizabeth Hickey, M.S.W., CRC's National Parent Education Director, and Elizabeth Dalton, attorney and mediator
HB-602 ---------- $15.00

Parent Vs. Parent: How You and Your Child Can Survive the Custody Battle, by Stephen P. Herman, M.D., 1990. Expert advice for parents through all stages of the divorce process.
HB-603 ---------- $20.95

Between Love and Hate, A Guide to Civilized Divorce, by Lois Gold, M.S.W., 1992. Learn the fundamental skills of negotiation conflict resolution and mediation, for everyone's good.
SB-604 ---------- Reg. $13.95 *Discount Price $6.00

LEGAL ISSUES

NEW!

From Courtship to Courtroom: What Divorce Law Is Doing to Mariage, by Jed H. Abraham, 2000. Abraham, a lawyer, mediator, and joint custody advocate, writes a chilling picture of how today's divorce laws make life miserable for families.
SB-701 ---------- $15.00

A Family Divided, by Robert Mendelson, 1997. A discussion of a divorced father's struggle with the child custody industry.
HB-703 ---------- Reg. $21.00
***Discount Price $10.00**

The Custody Revolution, by Richard Warshak, 1992. The Father Factor and the Motherhood Mystique.
HB-604 ---------- Reg. $21.00 *Discount Price $15.00

Custody for Fathers, by Carleen and Michael Brennan, 1994. Includes more than 100 strategies that have helped fathers win (share) custody of their children in a mom-biased system.
HB-705 ---------- Reg. $24.95 *Discount Price $12.00

Divorce and the Myth of Lawyers, by Lenard Marlow, J.D., 1992. The exposition of myths regarding the legal system and its effects on divorcing couples.
HB-706 ---------- $10.95

The Father's Emergency Guide to Divorce/Custody Battle, A Tour Through the Predatory World of Judges, Lawyers, Psychologists and Social Workers in the Subculture of Divorce, by Robert Seidenberg, with the legal insights of Williams Dawes, Esq., 1997.
SB-707 ---------- $15.00

Every Parent's Guide to the Law, by Deborah L. Forman. Everything you need to know about legal issues affecting parents and children pre-birth through the child-rearing years.
SB-708 ---------- $18.00

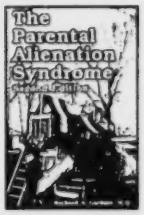
PARENTAL KIDNAPPING

NEW! Autographed Copies!
They Are My Children, Too, by Catherine Meyer, 1999. Powerful account of a mother's loss of her children. A case of international parental kidnapping. Written by CRC's new Honorary President.
HB-801 ---------- $23.00

When Parents Kidnap, by Geoffrey Greif and Rebecca Hegar, 1993. This book captures the experiences of parents searching for their children and abductors who have taken them; also makes public policy recommendations.
HB-902 ---------- $22.95

CHILD ABUSE

Ashes to Ashes...Families to Dust, by Dean Tong, 1996. False accusations of child abuse: A road map for survivors that helps to answer their questions.
SB-901 ---------- $15.95



The Parental Alienation Syndrome, A guide for mental health and legal professionals, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1995. An authoritative work on the Parental Alienation Syndrome.
SB-903 ---------- $35.00

Children Held Hostage, Dealing with Programmed and Brainwashed Children, by Stanley S. Clawar, Ph.D., C.C.S. and Brynne Rivlin, M.S.S., 1991. This book is approved by the American Bar Association.
SB-904 ---------- $50.00

Recognizing Child Abuse, by Douglas Besharov, Ph.D., a resident scholar of the American Enterprise Institute. A comprehensive guide to recognizing, preventing, and handling child abuse and neglect.
SB-905 ---------- $12.00

The Book of David, How Preserving Families Can Cost Children's Lives, by Richard Gelles, 1996. A convincing and dramatic book about the flaws of the child welfare system.
HB-906 ---------- $23.00

The Abuse Excuse—And Other Cop-Outs, by noted lawyer Alan Dershowitz, 1994. Sob stories and evasions of responsibility.
HB-908 ---------- Reg. $23.00 *Discount Price $10.00

VIDEOS

Children: The Experts on Divorce, by Elizabeth Hickey, MSW 1994. The children speak from their own experience of going through their parents' divorce. A CRC-award winning video prepared by CRC's National Parent Education Director.
V101 ---------- $25.00

Don't Forget The Children, by the Dallas, Texas Association of Young Lawyers. A CRC award-winning video that provides information on co-parenting in the event of divorce.
V102 ---------- $20.00

Psychotherapeutic & Legal Approaches To Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS), by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. An in-depth discussion of ways that parents can alienate the child against the other parent.
V103 ---------- $25.00

REPORTS

UPDATED 1997, Interference with Access (Visitation) as a Tort. Not a frequent remedy, but one that may be available.
R101 ---------- $10.00

Send for a list of other reports.

PINS AND BUTTONS

The famous "Children First" pin. 8 colors, with figures of seven children standing on a field of green with logo "Children First." Two prongs. 3/4" high, 1-1/2" wide.
P101 ---------- $8.00

Button created by Patti Diroff that says "Child support is more than a check, it's being a parent." With CRC logo, including children's faces. 4 colors, round, 2-1/4" diameter.
B202 ---------- $2.00

T-SHIRTS

CRC 4-color t-shirts say "Help Stop Crime, Give Children 2 Parents" Specify size: child S, M, L; Adult S, M, L, XL. Specify color: white or blue.
---------- $10 adults, $8 children

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Some Major CRC Acomplishments

CRC was founded in 1985. This is CRC's 15th year (2000), so perhaps it is time to reflect on CRC's accomplishments=—none of which would be possible without our members and supporters, and a little help from the Almighty.

1985. Under our original name, National Council for Children's Rights, formed a nationally prominent Advisory Panel, including "Dear Abby," U.S. Senators and Representatives, representatives of Mothers Without Custody, Stepfamily and Grandparents groups, researchers and writers on family issues.

1985. Sought Congressional authorization for the establishment of access (visitation) staff throughout the country to informally help children gain access to their non-custodial parents.

1986. First of 12 CRC national conferences, which bring together researchers and writers, CRC members, and policymakers from the U.S. and abroad.

1986. CRC testified orally for the first of 20 times before Congressional committees. Submitted the first of 40 written statements for the record in other Congressional hearings in favor of access (visitation) policies and programs, joint custody (shared parenting), welfare reform that would encourage 2-parent families, mediation, and implementation of the Hague Convention Against International Parental Kidnapping.

1987. CRC held a rally in front of the Capital, the first of various rallies, Candlelight Vigils, award breakfasts, and awards for "Best in Media," "Healer Awards" and "Parenting Awards" given over the years.

1988. Filed the first of 20 amicus curiae (friend of the court briefs) in support of a child's right to two parents. The first brief, filed before the U.S. Supreme Court, asked the court to uphold—which it did, by a narrow 5-4 majority, the right of an unwed biological father of a child to a hearing to determine if he should have visitation rights.

1988. After 3 years of advocacy by CRC on Capitol Hill, Congress provided in the Family Support Act of 1988 for access (visitation) demonstration grants in 6 states—Indiana, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Massachusetts, Arizona. Mediation, counseling, and telephone monitoring were tried.

1989. Published the first of more than 75 evaluations of research reports over the years. The first report showed that fathers were paying up to 35% more in child support than federal figures had previously reported.

1990. Welcomed the first of 38 chapters in 32 states, Washington, D.C. and Japan.

1991. Published first annual edition of Parenting Directory, iisting more than 1,000 groups across the country that can help parents.

1993. Changed our name to "Children's Rights Council" to put children first. Published CRC book "The Best Parent is Both Parents" (Hampton Roads Publishing Co.)

1994. The federal government published the CRC Model Child Support Guideline authored by CRC member Don Bieniewicz in its publication called "Child Support Guidelines: The Next Generation."

1995. Published first annual "Top 10 States to Raise a Child" report, which has received increasing national media attention over the years.

1995. Helped with Congressional establishment of National Commission on Child and Family Welfare, which after deliberations, recommended more mediation, unified courts, parenting plans.

1996. Results of 1988 access demonstration grants were so positive that Congress, in the 1996 Welfare Reform Act, provided $10 million a year in access grants for all 50 states and territories to share in.

1996. Helped obtain passage of presumption for joint legal and physical custody in the Nation's Capital, as chapters made strides in changing laws and attitudes in their respective states.

1997. CRC and its chapters started receiving access grants, which total $355,000 in four states (Illinois, Nebraska, New York, Maryland) and Washington, D.C. providing mediation, parenting education, parenting plans, neutral drop-off and pick-up of children, supervised access, hotlines. Some parents are seeing their children for the first time in these programs.

1998. Located data from the Census Bureau and National Center for Health Statistics that the states with the highest amount of physical joint custody in 1989 and 1990 had subsequently the greatest decline in the divorce rate. The reason seems to be that when parents know they will have to interact with the other parent, there is less incentive to divorce.

1999. Led successful effort for a second year in a row to defeat an anti-joint custody (shared parenting) resolution in the House.

1999. Assisted in advocating for passage of the "Fathers Count" bill in the House.

Chapter News

Ohio Opens Child Exchange Center in Toledo

Wuwert

"The Gift Exchange" is the name of the brand-new child transfer center recently opened by CRC of Ohio.

The center, located at St. James Lutheran Church in Toledo, will provide for neutral drop-off and pick-up of children every Friday and Sunday evening, and possibly Wednesday night.

Judges and mediators in Toledo have agreed to refer parents to use the site, said Margaret Wuwert, CRC Ohio coordinator, whose chapter worked for a long time to convince local officials that an exchange site would be helpful to children and families.

Parent A will bring his or her child to the sunday school child-friendly room in the church at, say, 7 p.m. on Friday, and wait until Parent B picks up the child 15 minutes later. On Sunday, the situation will be reversed, with Parent B returning the child about 7 p.m., and waiting until Parent A comes to pick up the child. "In some situations, the CRC monitors at the site will have one parent leave before the other arrives," said Wuwert, "but monitors will be there at all times."

The monitors will file reports with the Court on which parents and children use the center.

"I am ecstatic that we finally got this center opened," said Wuwert, who spent months working with judges, mediators, and local officials in Toledo in the northwest section of Ohio discussing the proposed center. "Keeping children from being held hostage in the divorce situation is the true mission of CRC," she said. "We are getting great media coverage for the center, so people will know it exists."

Note: Open a child access exchange center in your state. Call CRC for information.

CRC Holds Children of Divorce Rally at Connecticut State Capitol

Roseman

CRC of Connecticut held a rally in December at the state capitol in Hartford to inform people about the needs of children who are in the middle of divorce and separation.

Mark Roseman, coordinator of CRC of Connecticut led the rally, which was publicized in several newspapers.

Mark has been appointed as a member of the state Fatherhood Initiative, which will examine problems and offer solutions to improve fatherhood in Connecticut. "We want both moms and dads involved in children's lives," said Roseman.

Roseman has obtained 2,500 copies of recent CRC "Speak Out for Children" newsletters from the national CRC office to distribute to legislators, libraries, bookstores, sand schools. He has appended one sheet telling about Connecticut CRC to all the copies of the national newsletter, so that people in Connecticut can get Connecticut family-oriented news, also.

A Way to Adjust the Guideline

Ask a state agency working on child support guidelines in your state to invite Don Bieniewicz, CRC's expert on guidelines, to testify.

Asking Bieniewicz to testify could help convince your state to adopt portions of the only guideline we know of that is based on a child having two parents.

This CRC guideline, authored by Bieniewicz, was published by the federal government in a publication entitled "Child Support Guidelines: The Next Generation."

To obtain a copy of the federal publication, phone (202) 401-9383, which is the Office of Child Support Enforcement's Child Support Reference Center, located at 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW, Washington, D.C. 20447. There is no charge for the publication, as long as supplies last.

Copies of the guideline itself as published by the government are available from CRC for $5.00 for CRC members, and $10.00 for non-members, including shipping and handling.

Write to Bieniewicz at 10004 Fairoaks Road, Vienna, VA 22181, contact him via email at DonBien@erols.com, or phone 703-255-0837 (evenings).

Intellectual Property Protection

Charlie Ruggiero, who obtained trademark protection for the name and logo "Children's Rights Council" and the name and logo for our newsletter "Speak Out for Children" is a specialist in trademark, patent, copyright, and licensing law. He is a partner in the law firm of Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero and Perle, 1 Landmark Square, Suite 903, Stamford, CT 06901, telephone (203) 327-6067.

Amicus Briefs May be Available

CRC member Jeffrey Beal won a reversal on appeal on a child support order imposed by a New York Court. Beal's ex-wife has denied him access to his children for the past 9 years, yet a lower court refused Beal's request for a downward modification of his financial child support order. The appeals court granted the downward modification.

See Beal vs. Beal, Appellate Division, 2nd Department, Brooklyn, New York, decision published in the New York Law Journal on March 10, 2000. Beal's lawyer is Lewis Edelstein, 526-228-3355.

CRC filed a Friend of the Court brief in the case, but it was not a part of the outcome.

If your case is on appeal, and you would like CRC to consider writing an amicus brief, contact CRC. CRC cannot handle cases at the trial level, and we do not write the main appeal brief. An amicus brief is a supplemental brief, telling the court why this case is of significance not only to the parties in the case, but to other children and families as well. We generally need 30 to 60 days before the filing deadline.

Mediation, Moveaway Help

Leslee Newman, J.D., who has been giving free consultations on move-away issues to CRC members, is available for mediation consultations (at a fee). Leslee, who is a trained mediator, can be reached at 714-282-1515. Her husband Don Smith, Ph.D., clinical psychologist, is available for child custody evaluations. Don's number is 714-939-6678.

Don and Leslee are both in Orange County, California, but can handle cases anywhere in the country.

Upcoming Events

National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA)

NCSEA will hold its 49th annual conference July 30-August 3 at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, San Diego, CA. Early bird registration is $395; one-day registration is $175. NCSEA has been reaching out to non-custodial parents in recent years by including parenting topics at its annual conferences. To register for the conference, phone 202-624-8180; for hotel reservations, $105 and up, call the hotel at 1-800-772-8527.

Academy of Family Mediators (AFM)

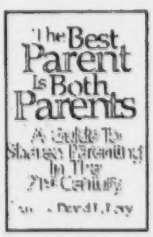
AFM will holds its 17th annual conference July 11-15, at the Hilton Salt Lake City Hotel. The theme is "Values in Mediation." AFM is giving its "Peace Award" to Neve Shalom, the group working for peace in the Middle East. Keynote speaker is John Paul Lederach, author and mediator. Conference registration is $365 and up; to register, phone 781-674-2663. For hotel reservations, $110 a night, phone 1-800-HILTONS.

National Center for Strategic Non-Profit Planning and Community Leadership (NPCL)

NPCL will hold its 2nd international Fatherhood conference May 29-31, at the New York Marriott Hotel Marquis, 1535 Broadway. Speakers will include an international panel of health and human services experts. Fee is $300, phone 1-888-528-6725 for registrations. For information on conference scholarships, phone Charlene Meeks at the same number. Hotel reservations are $169 per night, call hotel at 1-800-843-4898, and mention the International Fatherhood Conference.

National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI)

NFI will hold its 3rd national Summit on fatherhood June 2-3 at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. Registration is $195 for all events, including dinner June 2. $125 for dinner only. Speakers include Robert Porcher, line defensive end, Detroit Lions; Tim McGraw, country music superstar; Kirk Cameron, TV and film actor; Ron Haskins, House Ways and Means Committee; Sara McClanahan, researcher; Ken Canfield, National Center for Fathering, and CRC spokespersons. For reservations, call NFI at 301-948-0599, for hotel reservations phone 202/737-1234, $175 and mention NFI conference.



Order CRC Book and Make Money!

Order bulk copies (10 or more) of the still popular 1993 publication, *The Best Parent is Both Parents,* for only $4 a copy. Resell the copies for the list price of $10 each, and make a profit for you or your organization! Individual copies are $10.

Abduction and Shared Custody

A parent with joint custody is not necessarily immune from criminal prosecution for abducting his or her child from the other parent, the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled on Dec. 21, 1999. In reaching the decision, the Supreme Court set aside its 1993 ruling in a civil custodial interference/abduction case that unlawful custody by one parent could not be found where parents shared custody. The 1999 case involved a man who was charged with conspiracy and custodial interference, in connection with his role in aiding his nephew in interfering with the custodial rights of the nephew's ex-wife. The mother had limited, supervised visitation with the child, and the uncle helped his nephew to flee with the child to Turkey. The Supreme Court over-ruled a lower court decision that the uncle was not liable because the mother was not the sole custodian at the time of the alleged interference with visitation.

[State v. Vahilzaden, Conn., 251 Conn. 656, 12/21/99]

Relocation Law's Application to Pre-Existing Agreement

The Tennessee Court of Appeals held on Oct. 28, 1999, that a Tennessee state law governing parental relocation passes constitutional muster when applied to a pre-existing agreement. The Appeals Court was considering a case where the mother petitioned the trial court to be permitted to relocate with the child to Florida, where her new husband owned a business. The parties were divorced in 1996, and the marriage dissolution agreement stated that the mother "shall not remove child's residence from jurisdiction of Court without court approval." The trial court held that this agreement meant that a subsequent law on parental relocation did not apply, since application of the subsequent law would violate the prohibition against retrospective laws. However, the Appeals Court rejected the trial court's view, holding that the parental relocation law was remedial in nature and did not impair any vested right. The parental relocation law provides that, when parents spend substantially equal time with their child, and one parent wants to relocate with the child, a trial court must determine whether relocation is in the child's best interest. Where parents do not spend substantially equal time with the child, the law says, the court must permit relocation unless the parent does not have a reasonable purpose for moving, the child's interests would be harmed, or the relocating parent has a vindictive motive. The Appeals Court therefore concluded that the mother should be able to relocate with the child.

[Caudill (Foley) v. Foley, Tenn. Ct.App., No. 01A01-9903-CH-00187, 10/28/99)

Joint Custody for Father and Stepfather

A trial court correctly decided that a stepfather should have joint custody of a 12 year-old boy, along with the boy's natural father, despite the objections of the mother, the Virginia Court of Appeals held Oct. 5, 1999. The stepfather received physical custody of the boy. The Appeals Court said exceptional circumstances justified awarding custody to the stepfather, because the boy had been in the stepfather's custody for over seven years, was well-adjusted, and wanted to remain with the stepfather.

[Brown v. Burch, Va. Ct. App., No. 1937-98-2, 10/5/99]

Immunity for Clinical Social Worker

A clinical social worker is entitled to immunity in a parent's suit alleging negligent performance of a custody evaluation, the Kentucky Court of Appeals ruled Feb. 4. The case involved divorced parents who had joint custody of their children. Two years after the custody award, the mother sought sole custody, and asked a licensed clinical social worker to perform a custody evaluation. The father agreed to the selection of the social worker, but the social worker said she would not perform the evaluation unless she was appointed by the court to do so. After court appointment, the social worker carried out the evaluation, and recommended that the father be given sole custody. The trial court awarded custody to the father and ordered the mother to pay child support. The mother then filed a malpractice action against the social worker. The trial court rejected the social worker's claim of immunity, saying that Kentucky case law did not address the issue of immunity for court-appointed social workers who provided custody evaluations. The Appeals Court, however, cited a 1995 case where immunity had been granted, and said that the social worker, who was "an integral part of the judicial process," was entitled to immunity.

[Stone v. Glass, Ky. Ct. App., Nos. 1998-CA-001973 & 1998-CA-002062, 2/4/00]

Stepfather Preferred to Father After Mother's Death

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court decided Jan. 19 that a stepfather should have custody of a boy, following his mother's death. The Supreme Court said it made its decision on the basis that the best interest of a child could justify a non-parent getting custody, even though the biological parent had not been shown to be unfit. After the death of the mother, the father, who lived in New Jersey, sought custody of his son, then eight years old. However, the trial court found that the boy's life centered on his home with the stepfather, who had married the mother when the boy was one. The Appeals Court endorsed this view, saying that, although several jurisdictions had adopted a standard generally strongly favoring the natural parent over a third party, it had explicitly declined to do so. One justice dissented, expressing the view that natural parents had a constitutionally protected right to custody of their children, whenever there was no evidence that they were unfit.

[Charles v. Stehlik, Pa. No. J-118-1999, 1/19/00),

Choice of Counselor in Parental Alienation

A judge attempting to resolve a long-running custody/visitation battle properly ordered the custodial mother to undergo counseling, but erred in requiring her to accept a therapist her ex-husband chose, the North Dakota Supreme Court held Jan. 3. The court said the judge correctly ruled that the mother's behavior in alienating the children from the father merited counseling. However, the Supreme Court said, father should not have been allowed to pick the counselor, despite the judge's concern that the mother would choose a counselor who would not help to end the alienation behavior. The court directed the judge to obtain a list of qualified counselors from both parties, and then make the choice from among those named.

[Hendrickson v. Hendrickson, N.D., No. 990123, 1/3/00]

Divorced Parents' Liability for Child's Vandalism

A state law permitting school districts to recover damages from the parents of children who destroy school property applies only to the parent with whom the child is living at the time of the offense,

Florida's Third District Court of Appeal held Dec. 22, 1999. The Court of Appeal said that the law, drafted in 1956, "has not kept up with the changed reality of dissolution and child custody circumstances." However, the court said, the statute's intention was clear, and was directed at the parent with whom the child was living. The parent with primarily residential custody over the child had the immediate opportunity to exert parental control and discipline over the resident child, the Court of Appeal said. One judge dissented, saying that the court's ruling would "emasculate" the concept of shared parental responsibility.

[Canida v. Canida, Fla. Dist. Ct. App., Nos. 99-300 & 99-188, 12/22/99]

The above cases are summarized from Family Law Reporter, published by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. They appear here by permission of the publisher.

Report Denial or Interference with Access (Visitation)

If you are a parent who has experienced repeated interference or denial of access/visitation/parenting time with your child, please provide basic information to CRC, such as relevant state statutes, published court decisions you relied on, and remedies the court may have implemented. If your case was interstate, include information on whether the full faith and credit provisions of the Visitation Order Enforcement Act of 1998, Title 28 U.S. Code, Section 1738A, was addressed in your case, or if a registered order from another state was complied with or ignored. We are gathering this information to evaluate possible legislative proposals and give advice to parents handling similar situations. Replies requested by June 30, 2000. Send information (no more than 2 pages, please) to P.O. Box 2265, Reston, VA 20195.

CRC Wants Chapters in Every State

CRC WANTS CHAPTERS IN EVERY STATE! GO CRC!!

For development of chapters in states that do not yet have any CRC chapters:

Re: states out west, contact CRC Board Member from the chapters Terry Cady in Illinois.

Re: states in the south, contact Board Advisor from the chapters Fred Wall in North Carolina.

Re: states in the east, contact Board Advisor from the chapters Margaret Wuwert in Ohio.

See their names and numbers on page 30.

For states in the east, you may also contact Ron Pilcher, 513/755-2932.

Join CRC, then ask for a copy of the 100-page CRC booklet that explains everything you need to know about affiliation. The cost of the booklet is $15.00.

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For information contact the CRC office or:

Andrew Ross
301/320-5960

Lawrence Peckmazian
703/920-1451

Congressional Update

Here are some important bills and resolutions in Congress affecting families. Write to your House member or Senator to let them know what you think of a particular bill. They do not get enough mail on issues of concern to CRC members. So contact them! Let them know what sort of legislation you would like to see passed!

Write
Senator (name)
Washington, D.C. 20510
or
Representative (name)
Washington, D.C. 20515

House Bills

Bills Affecting Child Custody

Stalking Prevention

H.R. 1869, the Stalking Prevention and Victim Protection Act, introduced by Rep. Sue Kelly (D-NY) in May 1999 was passed by the House in November 1999 and a companion Senate measure was introduced in January 2000 by Sen. John Ashcroft (S. 2011). A similar bill (S. 1660) sponsored by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison was previously introduced. The bill would amend Title 18 of the U.S. Code and broaden the definition of stalking in interstate or foreign commerce to apply to those who act "with the intent to injure or harass" another person and engage in conduct "that places an individual, a member of their immediate family or intimate partner in reasonable fear" of death or bodily injury.

The bill would not take the place of state anti-stalking statutes but would provide for federal prosecution where a stalker threatens an individual by telephone, mail, or e-mail. The bill states that stalking includes "harassment," a term not defined in U.S. statutes. Because harassment is a charge frequently leveled by one parent against another during divorce, the bill will almost certainly lead to greater abuse of court restraining orders by vindictive parents. Under the new bill, no clear guidelines are given for the removal of restraining orders.

The Ashcroft bill is being considered by the Constitutional Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, (202-224-8081).

S. 51, Title II, Study of Child Custody Laws in Domestic Violence Cases, introduced by Sen. Joe Biden (D-DE), Authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to States and Indian tribal governments to enable them to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements to assist public or private nonprofit entities in establishing and operating supervised visitation centers for purposes of facilitating supervised visitation and visitation exchange of children by and between parents. Requires that priority be given to States that consider domestic violence in making a custody decision and require findings on the record. Currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Write to Sen. Biden, Senate Judiciary Committee, and your Senator, stating that Congress has already provided for the exchange sites we seek, but in a more general, family-friendly way, in the 1996 Welfare Reform Law. CRC seeks an increase in funding for those access/visitation/parenting programs.

S. 51, Sec. 302. Directs the Attorney General to study and report to Congress on Federal and State laws relating to child custody, including the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act of 1980, and their effect on child custody cases in which domestic violence is a factor. Requires study to examine the burdens and risks encountered by victims of domestic violence arising from compliance with the full faith and credit (and judicial jurisdiction) requirements of that Act.

CRC recommends that you state that Sec. 302 of the proposed law should direct the Attorney General to also report on the frequency of use and effect of false allegations of abuse in the midst of custody or access/visitation battles, which have been noted by the American Bar Association and other organizations. We must deal with false abuse accusations in order to more fully help children who really have been abused, as officials in Texas and other states have decided.

The Senate has two other VAWA measures. S. 245, was introduced in January 1999 by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and referred to the Judiciary Committee. Another bill, S. 1321, was re-introduced by Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-WI) which did not pass in the earlier session of Congress. As part of that bill, supervised visitation centers would be established for children who witness domestic violence at home. The bill would also increase the role of schools in providing assistance.

Bills Affecting Financial Child Support

Denial of Passports

H.R. 521. Denial of Passports to Noncustodial Parents in Cases of Nonpayment of Child Support. Introduced by Rep. Robert Andrews (D-NJ). Referred to House International Relations Committee and the House Subcommittee for International Operations and Human Rights. It is a bill that would deny passports to noncustodial parents subject to State arrest warrants in cases of nonpayment of child support awards.

Write to Chairman Benjamin A. Gilman, (R-NY), House International Relations Committee and Chairman Christopher Smith (R-NJ), House Subcommittee for International Operations and Human Rights, Washington, D.C. 20515, asking that passports should also be denied to individuals subject to state arrest warrants in violation of custody and access/visitation orders.

Bankruptcy Reform Act Provisions Would Prioritize Financial Child Support

The Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1999, H.R. 833, introduced by Rep. George Gekas, passed in the House on May 5, 1999. A similar measure from Sen. Grassley (R-IA) was considered by

the Senate, S. 625. Senator Hatch (R-UT) in November, 1999, gave a speech on the Senate floor where he proposed strengthening the protection of domestic child support obligations during bankruptcy proceedings. The Senate voted to act on HR 833 which passed the Senate on February 2, 2000, and the bill went to a conference committee to reconcile differences between House and Senate versions.

The bill will probably be signed into law by President Clinton by sometime in the Spring of 2000. Overall, the bill gives greater protection to collect support obligations than current law provides. The new law would ensure that available assets first go to pay a support obligation, before credit card debt, tax obligation, or any other debt. Previously, certain obligations, such as taxes, were to be discharged prior to child support arrearages. The new law would change that priority, and if there are any assets, they would go first to child support. The new bill also toughens requirements that the bankruptcy trustee notify persons owed child support and government collection agencies of the pending bankruptcy proceeding.

For further information, contact House Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, 202/225-2835.

Bill Would Require IRS to Collect Support

H.R.1488. Compassion for Children and Child Support Enforcement Act of 1999 was introduced by Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL). This bill would require the Internal Revenue Service to collect and disburse child support payments. A hearing was held by the Human Resources subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee (202/225-1025) on March 16, 2000. State child support administrators and other child support experts oppose federalizing child support, and the bill is not expected to be approved by the subcommittee.

Child Support Disbursement Unit

S.1033. Child Support Penalty Fairness Act. introduced by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). Referred to Senate Finance Committee. It is a bill to amend Title IV of the Social Security Act to coordinate the penalty for the failure of a State to operate a State child support disbursement unit with the alternative penalty procedure for failures to meet data processing requirements.

Write to Sen. Feinstein and your own U.S. senators urging that the penalty for failure to implement the full faith and credit interstate access/visitation law should result in financial penalties to the state.

Bills to Strengthen Family Life and Marriage

Ehlers

H. Res. 280, sponsored by Rep. Vernon J. Ehlers (R-MI), referred to House Education and Workforce Committee. Recognizes the importance of strong marriage in general, and the Greater Grand Rapids Community Marriage Policy in particular. That policy outlines a menu for a successful marriage, including not marrying too young, finishing school, choosing a mate with similar values, dating at least a year before marriage, completing a premarital course, waiting to cohabit until after marriage, emphasizing the positive, sharing household duties, worshiping together, having fun together, and remembering that commitment is the foundation to successful marriage.

Moynihan

S. 208 Enhancing Family Life Act, sponsored by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan was referred to the Finance Committee. It would provide "second chance homes" to custodial parents under age 19 and their children where they would have a supportive and supervised living arrangement and be required to learn parenting skills, including child development, family budgeting, health and nutrition, and other skills to promote their long-term economic independence and well-being of their children.

CRC recommends writing to Sen. Moynihan to ask that connecting children to both of the child's parents be part of the bill.

Donors are Appreciated

CRC thanks everyone who contributes to CRC in the charity drive that takes place in all federal government offices every Fall. CRC is part of Independent Charities of America. We also thank those who contribute to CRC in the Washington, D.C., and San Francisco (Bay Area) United Way campaigns.

We also thank those who contribute to CRC through their United Way in some other part of the country, where we are not listed, but where employers may sometimes allow employees to designate CRC.

CRC depends on volunteer help and contributions for its existence. If you wish to make your tax-deductible contribution directly to CRC, send it to CRC, 300 I Street, Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002.

Change of Address

To keep newsletters and other materials coming, please notify CRC three weeks in advance of any address change. Send old and new addresses to CRC, 300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, DC 20002.

Important Phone Number

The phone number for the Congressional switchboard, which will reach all offices and committees, is (202) 224-3121.

CRC and our chapters need grant and proposal writers.

President Clinton Sends His Greetings to CRC

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 21, 1999

Warm greetings to everyone gathered in Alexandria, Virginia, for the 12th national conference of the Children's Rights Council.

Families are the cornerstone of American life. They provide the love, encouragement, and guidance children need to sustain them in all their endeavors. However, while the importance of families is unchanging, the challenges facing them are not. In many American families today, both parents work outside the home and struggle to balance the competing demands of job and family. In others, a single parent bears these responsibilities. Still others go through difficult transitions precipitated by divorce.

My Administration has worked hard to help parents meet their responsibilities by raising the minimum wage, enacting the Family and Medical Leave Act, and promoting and expanding such important initiatives as Head Start and the Children's Health Insurance Program. But I know that no government policy or program can replace the care, concern, and unconditional love that children receive from their parents.

I commend the participants of this conference for your commitment to ensuring that America's families, even in today's complex society, stay strong. This year's theme -- "Keeping Kids First in the 21st Century" -- reminds us that children are our future and that their well-being must always remain our first priority, both in our personal lives and in our public policy.

Hillary joins me in extending best wishes for a productive conference and continued success in your important work.

Bill Clinton

This is the letter President Clinton sent to CRC's 12th National Conference in September, 1999.

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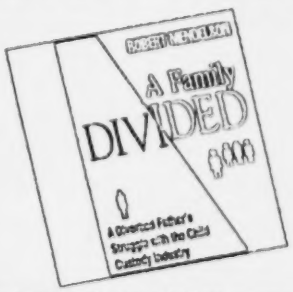

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-- Wade F. Horn, Ph.D., President of the National Fatherhood Initiative

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-- Sidney Siller, Chairman/Founder of the National Organization for Men

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CRC Chapters Now in 3 Foreign Countries

CRC is expanding overseas. We already have a chapter in Japan; we now have chapters in the United Kingdom and Sierre Leone.

United Kingdom Organizing Equal Parenting Party

The Coes

Tony and Christine Coe, who head the Equal Parenting Party, a political party dedicated to one issue, shared parenting after separation or divorce, are organizing the new CRC chapter.

The Coe's report that in the U.K. (England, Wales and Scotland):

- 50 percent of non-custodial parents lose **all** contact with their children within three years of separation;
- a custodial parent has in effect, all the power. The only right a non-custodial parent has is to apply to the court for access;
- if the custodial parent is hostile to the idea of access, it can take years of litigation with no guarantee of securing any access whatever;
- all family court proceedings are conducted in secret, and no one may talk about them; thus Tony is under a court order in London not to say anything about his children. As strange as it may sound, he is prohibited from even providing CRC with the names and ages of his children for publication in this newsletter article.

The new chapter is working on changing this system, and assuring that for children, "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

My "second, current, and final wife Christine, deals with women's issues within the Equal Parenting Party," says Tony.

The Party plans to run candidates in as many local elections as possible with a view to increasing public awareness of children's issues in divorce.

Tony and Christine visited the CRC office on March 9.

Sierra Leone

Yottro Kargbo

A mother and son team have started CRC's first-ever chapter in an African country, Sierra Leone. Yottro Kargbo, who lives in the U.S., and his mother Esther Kargbo, who lives in Sierra Leone, in West Africa, are organizing this chapter.

Yottro reports that:

- In the past nine years, Sierra Leone has been torn apart by war. Families have been destroyed and separated. The greatest victims of these atrocities are children. Most of these kids ages 8 to 16 ended up being "child soldiers" and fought alongside grown men.
- Today, with a peace deal signed, most of these kids are returning their arms and look forward to start living like normal kids again. It is estimated that there are more than 10,000 "child soldiers" in Sierra Leone and 10,000 more who have lost their parents in one way or the other.
- Most kids will never step foot in a school or classroom, because there is no parent in their lives to provide these facilities for them. The chapter will work to ensure that education becomes a right for children, not a privilege.*
- The chapter will work to find or locate lost parents and re-unite them with their children, provide counseling for parents and children to understand the repercussions of war, and find families and homes for unfortunate kids whose parents cannot be found.
- the chapter will work to bring together divorced parents, to let them understand that "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

CRC's First Chapter in Africa to Help Child Victims

The Kargbo family business in Sierra Leone is a desk-top publishing office which will be partly used as a CRC office. Yottro has experience in running non-profit organizations.

Chapter in Pennsylvania Capital

Kurt Krusen, a CRC member for the past four years, has organized a chapter in Harrisburg, the capital of Pennsylvania. He takes the place of Michael and Ann Poliakoff, who headed a chapter in Harrisburg, until they moved to Virginia a few months ago after adopting a baby from China.

Krusen is working particularly on move-away issues. He believes that the emphasis should be against state courts allowing move-aways.

This is also CRC's position.

CRC's view is that when parents bring a child into the world, they owe the child an obligation to allow that child frequent and continuing contact with both parents, which is much easier to accomplish if both parents remain in the same geographic area as the child.

The parent who contemplates a move-away with the child should be required to give 60 says notice to the court and to the other parent, so that both parents can decide on a appropriate course of action.

If the parent is allowed to move away with the child, new arrangements, both financial and parenting, should be worked out so that the child can have the benefits of both parents continued involvement in the child's life.

It may be that both parents will have to share travel costs with the child, or even that the parent who is moving away should assume the increased financial obligations.

National Affiliate Organizations and Chapters

CRC International Chapters

CRC of Great Britain
Tony and Christine Coe, coordinators
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David Brian Thomas
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Tokyo, Japan 156
phone: 011-81-3-53174357

CRC of Sierra Leone
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Alexandria, VA 22312
phone and fax: 703/750-0494
and Esther Kargbo
7 Sanai Abacha Street
Freetown, Sierra Leone
phone: 011-23-2-22222-8682

National Affiliate Organizations

Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC)
Jennifer Isham, coordinator
website only: http: www/motherswithoutcustody.org

Stepfamily Association of America (SAA)
Margorie Engel, president
Larry Kallemyn, Executive Director
650 J Street, Suite 205
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
402/477-7837
1-800/735-0329
Joint membership in SAA and CRC: $35.00 for the first year

State Chapters

Alabama
Dr. Richard C. Weiss, coordinator
CRC of Alabama
514 Heritage Court S.
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email: weissrl@vetmed.auburn.edu

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Vol. 15 No. 1

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Summer 2000

Vol. 15-No. 2

Strengthening Families Through Education And Advocacy

ISSN 1042-3559

Assisting Children of Never-Married, Separated and Divorced Parents

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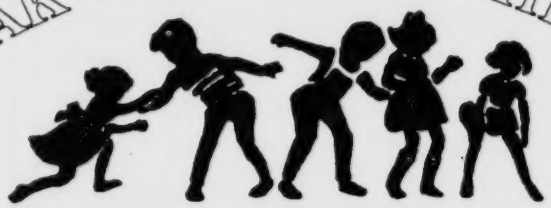

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Children's Rights Council, Inc.
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Parent Education Seminars Required in Virginia

Murray Steinberg Led Long Effort to Get Virginia to Require Parenting Education for Divorcing Parents

All parents involved in custody or visitation (access) disputes must attend parent education seminars in the state of Virginia, according to a new law passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Jim Gilmore (R). The law took effect July 1, 2000 for a two year trial period, after which the law must be reviewed.

The educational seminars are to be conducted "by a qualified person or organization approved by the court, on the effects of separation or divorce on children, parenting responsibilities, options for conflict resolution, and financial responsibilities."

The law states that:

- The charge for participation at such program shall be based on the party's ability to pay, not to exceed $50. The court may grant an exemption from attendance at such program for a good cause.
- Other than statements or admissions by a party admitting criminal activity or child abuse or neglect, no statement or admission by a party in such seminar or program shall be admissible into evidence in any subsequent proceeding.

Murray Steinberg, head of the Family Resolution Council, a chapter of CRC in Richmond, Virginia, served on several committees established by the legislature over a 4-year effort to get Virginia to require

Continued on page 3

Please Plan on Attending
CRC's 13th National Conference
Holiday Inn Bethesda
(inside the Beltway)
May 4-6, 2001

Reception at the British Embassy Residence and Gardens to Benefit CRC
May 3, the evening before the conference

"Speak Out for Children" is published by the Children's Rights Council, Inc. Editor: David L. Levy. Contributors to this issue: Al Ellis, Julie Maggiacomo, Paul Robinson, John Prior, Ken Skilling, and college student interns Carol Bailey, graduate of Washington State University; Tabitha Blackwell, Campbell University; Amy Camright, St Joseph's University; Lisa Chavez, University of California at Santa Barbara; Joy Clavecillas, George Washington University; Melissa Dorris, University of Illinois Law School; Janee Gianotti, Air Force Academy; Mike Gilmore, University of California at Davis; Jennifer Randall, University of Notre Dame; Stephanie Shark, Temple University Law School; Connie Yang, University of Pennsylvania. Layout by Sheila Holzberger.

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The CRC

The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a nation-wide, non-profit IRS 501 (c) (3) children's rights organization based in Washington, D.C. CRC works to strengthen families through education and advocacy. We favor family formation and family preservation, but if families break up, or are never formed, we work to assure a child the frequent and continuing contact with two parents and extended family the child would normally have during a marriage. Our motto is "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

For the child's benefit, CRC favors parenting education before marriage, during marriage, and for parents who are unwed or separated. We work to demilitarize divorce between parents who are involved in marital disputes, substituting conciliation and mediation for the adversarial process, and providing for emotional and financial child support. We work to strengthen fragile families of children whose parents are unwed. We also favor school-based programs for children at risk.

Formed in 1985 by concerned parents who have more than 40 years collective experience in custody reform and early childhood education, CRC has chapters in 32 states, Washington, D.C. and Africa, Asia and Europe. Two national organizations are affiliated with CRC: Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC) and the Stepfamily Association of America (SAA).

Prominent professionals in the fields of religion, law, social work, psychology, child care, education, business, and government comprise our Advisory Panel.

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Education Seminars

Continued from page 1

parenting education for separating and divorcing parents.

Steinberg drafted the bill after hearing of Elizabeth Hickey's parenting education work in Utah. Steinberg said Virginia Delegate Jack Reid of Henrico County deserves major credit for sponsoring the bill over a several year period until it became law.

Virginia is believed to be the fourth state to require parenting education of all separating parents. Utah was the first state, and Connecticut and New Hampshire the second and third states. Other jurisdictions may mandate attendance by local court order or have informal attendance policies determined on a case-by-case basis.

This is according to a study by Margie Geasler and Karen Blaisure of Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, who did a nationwide study of parenting education programs. In Utah, the state program was started by Elizabeth Hickey, who trained all the original parenting education directors.

"We have now established a new organization called PEN, the Parent Education Network, to assure compliance with the new law."

Murray can be reached at family@richmond.net

Ask your state legislators to pass a required parenting education bill similar to what recently became law in Virginia.

Elian Back in Cuba: The Justice System Worked — Slowly

Elian

CRC sums up some observations about 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez.

- The U.S. justice system worked, albeit slowly. It took seven months for the system to decide finally that Elian belonged with his dad, but it was a correct decision, according to INS rules.
- Even if the INS had been judged incorrect in its handling of the case, U.S. law—the PKPA (Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act), the UCCJA (Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act)—and the International Hague Convention, also require that a child be returned to the "home state" or "country of habitual residence" of the child.
- Like many Americans, we wished Juan Miguel Gonzalez would have defected to the U.S., but if he didn't, he was legally entitled to return his child to Cuba.

CRC officers appeared more than 30 times on radio, TV and in print media discussing the Elian Gonzalez case, and CRC President David L. Levy was quoted in a Time magazine cover story on Elian in May.

After the family returned to Cuba, David L. Levy fielded questions from a Cuban-American representative on a radio program. The representative continued to restate the often quoted arguments regarding why Elian had not received fair treatment in the courts. With an eye toward the future, Levy asked how the Cuban and Miami sides of the family could now work towards reconciliation.

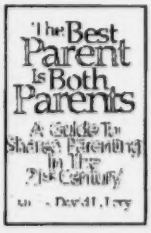
Would it help if the Cuban-American community focused on ways to see the boy, rather than on attacking Castro?

CRC understands that Elian's father, Juan Miguel Gonzales, and Lazaro Gonzales, the boy's great uncle, talked on the phone before Juan Miguel and Elian returned to Cuba.

Dr. Audrey Weiss, a family and child counselor in New York City who is a CRC spokesperson, said it would be beneficial to the boy to have contact with his Miami relatives.

"Contact would help because of the bonding that took place in Miami between Elian and his cousins," she said.

Alfred Ellis, CRC's Director of Child Access Services said, "This was not a political issue or a control issue. It is a parenting issue. Elian lost one parent, he deserves the right to be with his father, the surviving parent."



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Order bulk copies (10 or more) of the still popular 1993 publication, *The Best Parent is Both Parents,* for only $4 a copy. Resell the copies for the list price of $10 each, and make a profit for you or your organization! Individual copies are $10.

Seven States Honored For Helping Children and Families

Moore

(l to r) CRC interns Cartwright and Yang and Representative Napolitano

Yoakum

The Best States for Shared Parenting—Montana, Kansas, Wisconsin, and Connecticut.

Seven states, Montana, Kansas, Connecticut, Wisconsin, California, Oklahoma, and Florida, were recognized by the Children's Rights Council for outstanding efforts to keep both mothers and fathers in their children's lives.

The awards covered a range of services to help parents before marriage, during marriage and where parents are separated, divorced, or never-married.

This was the first time such national awards were given by CRC. A press conference was held Wednesday, July 19, 2000, in the Hart Senate Office Building.

Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) and Representatives Bill McCollum (R-FL), Grace Napolitano (R-CA), and Dennis Moore (D-KS) accepted the awards on behalf of their states. Sarah Yoakum, a representative of Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating, flew from Oklahoma to accept the award on behalf of Governor Keating.

A reception followed the press conference. The award categories were:

Florida: Most Innovative Laws Before Marriage

- Florida's Marriage Preparation and Preservation Act, which provides a discount on marriage licenses for couples planning to marry if they take a pre-marital counseling class; if they do not take the class, they must wait a 3 day "cooling off" period before marriage.
- Divorcing couples with minor children must take a 4 hour course on parenting education.

California: Best Approach During Marriage and for Divorce

- The best state for marriage counseling during marriage—in order to help parents keep their marriage together if possible.
- Also best approach by requiring mediation (called conciliation) for all separating parents with minor children.

California has more marriage counselors per population that any other state, and has led the way among the states with required mediation.

Oklahoma: Most Innovative Law in the Event of Separation

- Oklahoma's Parenting Act for establishing shared parenting at the pendente lite (initial stage of litigation), before positions harden, and before litigation ensues. See Fall, 1999 "Speak Out for Children" for more details.

Greg Palumbo, Ph.D., executive director of Oklahomans for Families Alliance, was a catalyst behind passage of the law. Palumbo credits Representatives Bill Graves, Odilia Dank, and Russ Roach, along with Senators Owen Laughlin and James Williamson, for playing key roles in passage of the new law.

The number of physical joint custody awards per separating parents in those states are: Montana: 55.4%, Kansas, 53.3%, Wisconsin, 49.1% and Connecticut, 41.2%, according to the Census Bureau.

In addition, Montana, Kansas and Connecticut lead among states with the lowest divorce rate, which indicates to CRC that if parents know they will have to interact with the other parent through shared parenting, there is less incentive to divorce. The Census Bureau reported on this statistic for only 19 states; Wisconsin was not reported.

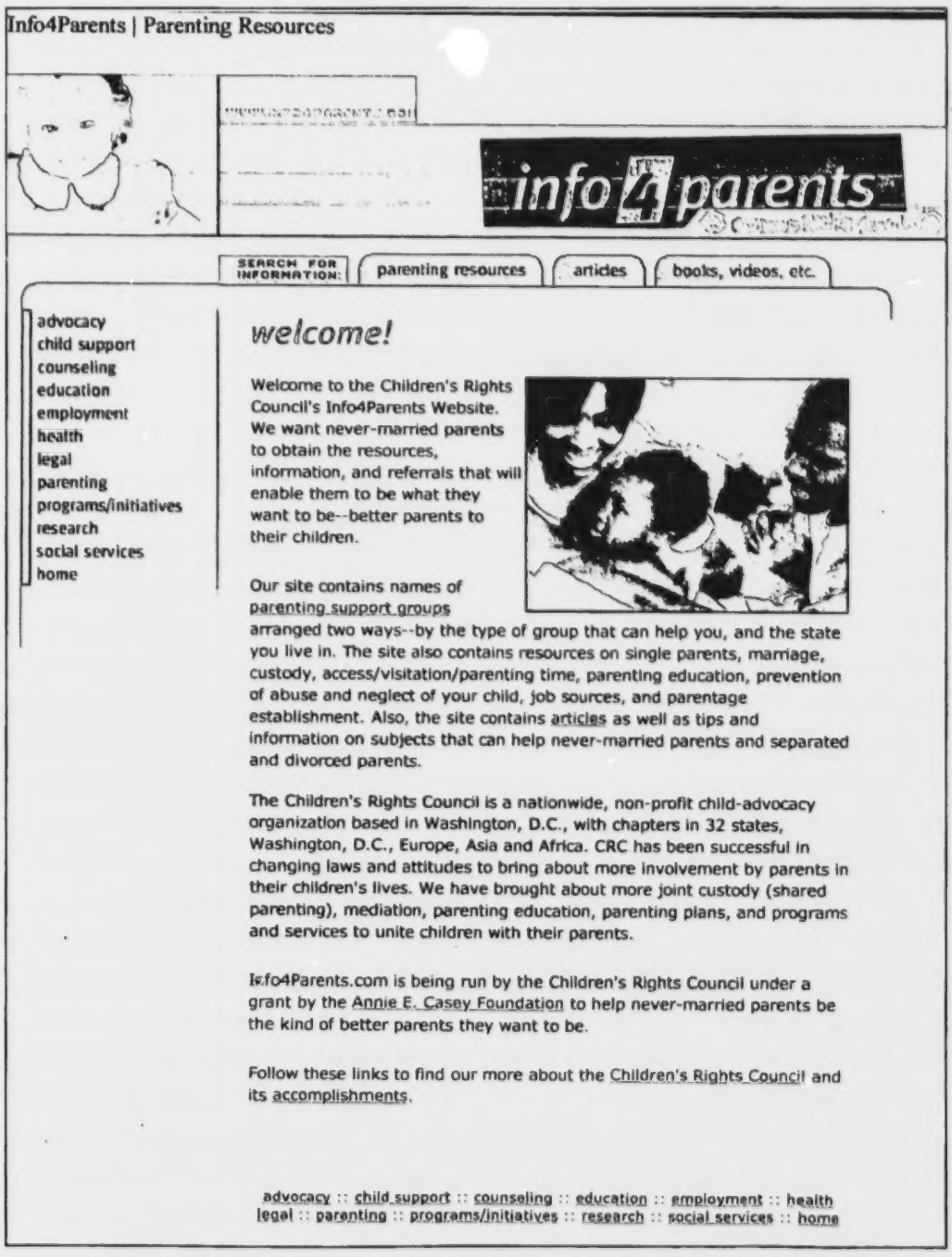
Note: CRC focused only on separation and divorce. But because of the serious problems children and families face in separation and divorce, we have come to realize that services need to be provided to assist people who wish to marry, and to help them sustain their marriages where possible. If divorce occurs, or the parents are never-married, children must be assured of a meaningful relationship with both parents whenever possible. As the CRC motto says, "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

A complete report on the selection of these states can be seen on our websites: **gocrc.com** and **info4parents.com** Hard copies from CRC free to CRC members; $10 for non-members for P/H. **See complete report.**

Check Out CRC's Two Websites

www.gocrc.com This is the main CRC organizational website. We thank CRC Evaluator of Research and Web expert Rick Kuhn (yes, Rick wears two hats) for maintaining the gocrc website, with the assistance of Serge Prengel and Bruce Kaskubar. Thanks to Rick, we now have a "secure server" on this website, which means you can order books, join or renew in CRC, and register for the conference by credit card.

www.info4parents.com We thank Lonnie Perrin, who was worked with young parents in the metropolitan D.C. area for 15 years, for maintaining this website for all parents, but mainly for never-married parents. This site is supported by a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation (see home page for this site below).


Info4Parents | Parenting Resources
info4parents
SEARCH FOR INFORMATION:
parenting resources
articles
books, videos, etc.
advocacy
child support
counseling
education
employment
health
legal
parenting
programs/initiatives
research
social services
home
welcome!
Welcome to the Children's Rights Council's Info4Parents Website. We want never-married parents to obtain the resources, information, and referrals that will enable them to be what they want to be--better parents to their children.
Our site contains names of parenting support groups arranged two ways--by the type of group that can help you, and the state you live in. The site also contains resources on single parents, marriage, custody, access/visitation/parenting time, parenting education, prevention of abuse and neglect of your child, job sources, and parentage establishment. Also, the site contains articles as well as tips and information on subjects that can help never-married parents and separated and divorced parents.
The Children's Rights Council is a nationwide, non-profit child-advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C., with chapters in 32 states, Washington, D.C., Europe, Asia and Africa. CRC has been successful in changing laws and attitudes to bring about more involvement by parents in their children's lives. We have brought about more joint custody (shared parenting), mediation, parenting education, parenting plans, and programs and services to unite children with their parents.
Info4Parents.com is being run by the Children's Rights Council under a grant by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to help never-married parents be the kind of better parents they want to be.
Follow these links to find our more about the Children's Rights Council and its accomplishments.
advocacy :: child support :: counseling :: education :: employment :: health
legal :: parenting :: programs/initiatives :: research :: social services :: home

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Levy

The CRC View

by David L. Levy, J.D.
President, CRC

Child Support Does *not* Reduce the Child Poverty Rate

In "The CRC View" (Spring, 2000 newsletter), I stated that the original purpose of the child support collection system was to reduce child poverty, but the child poverty rate had not gone down in 20 years.

A prominent federal official challenged that statement.

I had said that reduction of poverty was cited by Sen. Russell Long in 1980 as the reason for the federal take-over of the national child support system. And one often sees the media stating that a reduction in child poverty has either been achieved, or would be achieved, if only those awful dads would pay their child support.

I said that now, 20 years later, despite financial child support collections having quadrupled because of a huge federal and state bureaucracy, interception of tax returns, jailings, midnight arrests, posting of the "10 Most Wanted" lists, booting of cars, etc. the poverty rate of children remains essentially unchanged.

And you know what? The facts in "The CRC View" were accurate.

The only way poverty would really go down, I stated, was if government, the courts and legislatures end the powerful grip of the "divorce industry" over family life, and encourage and enforce children having frequent and continuing contact with both of their parents.

The reason this would help is that parents who have contact with their children pay far more than parents without such contact, says the Census Bureau. But too many parents feel pushed away and forced away from their children by the "divorce industry" that foists litigation and warfare upon parents who happen to get separated or divorce.

Concerning poverty, the 1999 Current Population Report (website **www.childstats.gov**) stated that in 1997, 19 percent of children lived in poverty. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that in 1998, the child poverty rate was below 20 percent, at 18.9 percent, for the first time since 1980.

Clearly, there are small discrepancies between the statistics from the Current Population Report and the U.S. Census Bureau. Deciphering which figures are the most accurate can be difficult when separate organizations cling to different statistics.

The biggest national network of food banks, Second Harvest, claims that the poverty rate for children under six years of age is growing extremely fast, though they do not give any figures.

The Children's Defense Fund reported that in 1998, nearly half of children living in families headed by single women were poor, while only 9 percent of children from married families were poor.

A recent report by the USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) revealed that households headed by females were much more likely to experience hunger than husband-wife households.

If that news isn't bad enough, we must keep in mind that the poverty rate for children at 18.9 percent is still higher than for any other age group.

CRC legislative intern Carol Bailey found that for 1998, the following poverty rates applied:

Under Age 18	=	18.9%
18–24	=	16.6%
25–34	=	11.9%
35–44	=	9.1%
45–54	=	9.2%
60–64	=	10.1%
65 and over	=	10.5%.

Kids Need Emotional Support, Too

After reviewing the reports from the various governmental and private organizations, it is clear that the child poverty rate has not experienced any major declines. Since the 1993 peak of 22.7 percent, the poverty rate has only dropped 3.8 percent in five years. In 1959, the child poverty rate was 27.3 percent.

The poverty rate continues to fluctuate, with the numerical ups and downs akin to the roller coasters kids love to ride. But should some kids have enough to eat, and others not? Why shouldn't all kids experience good emotional as well as good financial health?

The sad truth is that the child poverty rate in America has remained fairly consistent over the last twenty years.

The people who gave us the "divorce industry," with its promise that sole mother custody for the past 30 years would reduce poverty, were wrong.

Many children from single parent homes turn out fine, and single parents do all they can for their children. It's just that children's needs are often different from adult needs. Kids need their moms and dads, even if mom doesn't like dad, or dad doesn't like mom.

Let's emphasize the two parent family, preferably in marriage, but if not marriage, when the parents are never-married, separated and divorced. We will cut down on poverty—financial as well as emotional, moral and spiritual.

CRC Receives 3 Grants

The CRC National Office has received three grants during the year 2000. They are:

- a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation to establish a website primarily for never-married parents. It is **www.info4parents.com** The Casey grant is also for CRC to gauge the interest of members of the faith-based community to operate a transfer center such as CRC operates in various states and Washington, D.C.;
- CRC received a three-year renewal for our Maryland access (visitation) grant for services to be provided in Prince George's County. CRC provides neutral transfer sites for children, a Hotline for parents (301-552-8400), a monthly support group meeting, and referral services for parenting education, parenting plans, and mediation. We previously received this grant for one year, but it has now been renewed for three years;
- CRC received a grant for the third year in a row from the Washington, D.C. Superior Court to provide parenting services in the nation's capital. CRC provides a Hotline (202-543-8400), referrals, and services, including parenting classes, neutral drop-off for children, and supervised access. Many of these services are provided by CRC's Washington, D.C. chapter headed by Frank Banner. The D.C. Superior Court administers the grant under Chief Judge Eugene N. Hamilton and Acting Associate Deputy for Court Services Dr. Cheryl Bailey; while the funds are provided by the D.C. Child Support Office, under director Philip Browning and Ms. Jessie Ball.

CRC and our chapters need grant and proposal writers.

What Kids Need

Talk to Me

from "Talking with Kids about Tough Issues," from the National Initiative by Children Now and the Kaiser Family Fund National Survey

Parents, did you know that your kids want to talk to you about important issues? Kids ages 10-15 want to know more about how to handle potentially volatile situations, including

- if someone has a gun at school;
- how to know when you are ready to have sex;
- how to handle peer pressure in relation to drugs, sex, alcohol;
- what are STD's and AIDS and how to protect against them and pregnancy (including birth control options); and
- drinking and driving.

Unfortunately, you do not have much time to discuss these issues. If you wait until Junior High, it may be too late.

Many parents do not realize that by age 10 (and in many cases earlier), some kids are carrying weapons, having sex, sharing drugs, and drinking alcohol. Obviously not all kids are doing this. But the pressure to "just try" one of these things is very real and very scary for your children. And if they do not get answers from you, they will seek them from someone else.

For separated and divorced families, the challenge to talk to kids becomes even greater. Research shows that children need to be able to talk with both parents. Therefore, parents need to work together to instill similar values and ways to stay safe in potentially dangerous situations.

10 Tips

1. Start early: Before the teenage years kids turn to their parents. Around the time of Junior High, they look elsewhere for answers.
2. Initiate conversations with your child: use simple, short words and straightforward explanations.
3. ...Even about sex and relationships. Remember, if you are uncomfortable talking to your kids about these issues, your kids will be uncomfortable talking to you.
4. Create an open environment.
5. Communicate your values.
6. Listen to your child: not all important issues are signaled by ringing bells and whistles. You must pay attention and really listen to what your kids are saying.
7. Try to be honest.
8. Be patient.
9. Use everyday opportunities to talk.
10. Talk about it again and again.

A website that addresses these issues and helps parents help their children is **www.talkingwithkids.org** CRC has linked this and many other websites to our parenting website at **www.info4parents.com**

Change of Address

To keep newsletters and other materials coming, please notify CRC three weeks in advance of any address change. Send old and new addresses to CRC, 300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, DC 20002.

Important Phone Number

The phone number for the Congressional switchboard, which will reach all offices and committees, is (202) 225-3121.

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Equal Parents' Week 2000

Hold a Vigil Sept. 27 at 8 P.M. EST
Help Publicize "The Best Parent Is Both Parents"

Equal Parents' Week 2000
Just Say YES!

Equal Parents' Week will be held September 25 to October 1, 2000.

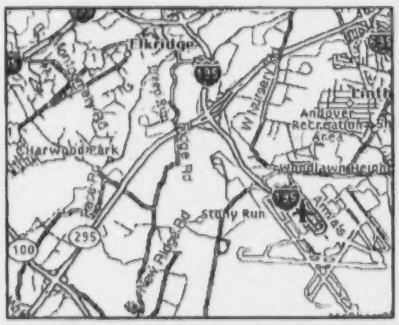
Spread the word to family, friends, and other organizations to join in tying purple ribbons, and to join "A Moment in Our Hearts, A Moment of Solidarity" by holding public and "Home Vigils" on Wednesday, September 27, 2000 to make Equal Parents' Week's message stronger than ever.

"One of the most critical elements of family preservation has been and continues to be left out at the local, state, and national levels of government in legislating and enforcing child support and custody laws: namely, a 2-parent focus," said Patti Diroff, CRC's Equal Parents' Week Coordinator.

This year, Equal Parents' Week is advocating that a 2-parent focus be established as our national priority, maximizing the involvement of both parents to meet all their children's needs without compromising or imposing financial impediments to nonfinancial forms of child support.

To call attention to 2-parent focus is the "Just Say Yes! to joint custody" campaign. "Just Say Yes!" calls attention to the problem of parental "veto" which unreasonably and arbitrarily defeats shared parenting and all too often deprives children from the contact they need and deserve from loving and responsible parents through laws or judicial discretion. Vetoing shared parenting is a choice. The response of statutes and judges should instead require parents to make a choice to exercise their first responsibility as a parent...to "just say yes" to making a commitment to doing what is truly in children's best interest...to "just say yes" to unconditionally loving and sacrificing for their children...and that means, "Just Say Yes!" to shared parenting.

Comments, ideas and suggestions should be directed to Patti Diroff at (909) 591-3689 and pattidiroff@worldnet.att.net The Equal Parents' Week website can be viewed at http://members.tripod.com/epweek.



From BWI (location 1) to hotel (location 2): I-195W to MD-295S, exit on MD-100W, Coca-Cola Dr. exit, Rgt on Coca-Cola, Rgt on Park Circle Dr., Rgt on Parkway Dr.

CRC Training Session
Sept. 16

CRC will hold an all day meeting Saturday, Sept 16, 2000 (9 A.M. to 5 P.M.) for chapter heads, chapter members and members of CRC interested in becoming active in CRC or active in a chapter. Topics: chapter development, grant development, marketing.

Location: Ramada Inn, 6 miles from BWI Airport, between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. The meeting is only $20 per person, lunch included. Seating is limited. Friday evening and/or Saturday evening dinner get-together optional at individual expense if people are interested.

Contact CRC if you wish to attend.

Hotel rooms from $69 to $82 depending on number of occupants. Free continental breakfast; free shuttle to BWI. Reserve rooms by calling 1-800-2RAMADA, ask for Ramada Inn Hanover, MD., ask for special CRC rate.

Contact Other CRC Members by E-mail

Send and receive e-mail from other CRC members around the country.

If you are a CRC member, e-mail the following message to Harry Prillaman, CRC Coordinator for Georgia, who is supervising this service. He can be reached at ppilla@us.ibm.com

Dear Harry. I am a national CRC member who would like to join the crc-general@egroups.com distribution list.

Call the CRC national office at 202-547-6227 or fax 202-546-4272 to make sure your national membership is current.

Get a 3.9 percent CRC Credit Card

Get the CRC VISA Credit Card, and obtain a low 3.9 percent introductory rate. The credit card displays the CRC logo, and CRC receives a small contribution every time you use the card. CRC receives more if you break up a large purchase into several small purchases. For an application, contact CRC, or call MBNA at 1-800-523-7666.

Correction from Last Issue

The story about Eloise Anderson, newest CRC Advisor, should have said that she is the former head of the California Department of Social Services, who is now Director of the Program for the American Family, Claremont Institute, Sacramento, California.

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

I am Eric Bleicken, making my second run for Congress from Cape Cod (2nd District of Massachusetts). If elected, I will work to end judicial immunity, hold DSS bureaucrats legally accountable, demand that perjury be prosecuted, schedule hearings on how bogus restraining orders are being used to gain advantage in divorce and custody cases, fight against unconstitutional gun seizures, and unreasonable divisions of property.

In my first run from the Cape Cod area in 1998, I took one third of the votes spending only about $8,000 to the incumbent's $800,000. Please help our cause. Thank you.

Eric Bleichen,
170B Pleasant St.
S. Yarmouth, MA 02664.

Note: CRC cannot endorse candidates for Congress. But we can print a letter such as the above.

Editor:

I am in awe at the speed at which I received my son's school records after you, Children's Rights Council, called the school principal.

Let me tell you how fast I received those records that I requested for almost two years. The same day that I received your letter informing me of your conversation with the school principal is the same day I received the records. They sent them out the day you called them.

I would like to thank you personally, Mr. Levy, and the Children's Rights Council.

Michael Short-Brennan
Kenedy, TX

(CRC phoned the U.S. Education Department office that handles the Educational Rights and Privacy Act—FERPA—which has responsibility for making school records available to non-custodial parents, at 202-260-3887. CRC held a three-way phone conversation between an Education Dept. representative, CRC, and a school official).

Updated Parenting Directory Available

Help More People! Find out about the 1,050 other groups around the country working on family issues, so that you can make referrals to parents who call you and need help.

See this "CRC Parenting Directory" on one of our websites, **www.info4parents.com** Or order a hardcopy or disc from CRC.

The directory contains listings of about 1,050 organizations that work in areas such as custody, access (visitation), and prevention of parental kidnapping.

The website is free. The hardcopy or disc are $12 for CRC members, and $15 for non-members. CRC thanks Paul Robinson and Ed Mudrak for their hard work in updating this Directory.

Please fax us corrections or updates on information whenever you can, to 202-546-4272.

A Way to Adjust the Guideline

Ask a state agency working on child support guidelines in your state to invite Don Bieniewicz, CRC's expert on guidelines, to testify.

Asking Bieniewicz to testify could help convince your state to adopt portions of the only guideline we know of that is based on a child having two parents.

This CRC guideline, authored by Bieniewicz, was published by the federal government in a publication entitled "Child Support Guidelines: The Next Generation."

Write to Bieniewicz at 10004 Fairoaks Road, Vienna, VA 22181, contact him via email at DonBien@erols.com, or phone 703-255-0837 (evenings).

Bequest in a Will

CRC thanks longtime CRC member John Siegmund of Virginia for making a substantial donation to CRC from the estate of his deceased mother, Mary. Mary Siegmund, while she was alive, was a member of CRC. We very much appreciate this contribution, and accept it in memory of Mary Siegmund.

Keep working for children. If you wish to consider leaving a bequest or property to CRC, please state the following in your will: "I hereby leave the following to the Children's Rights Council: — (state your bequest)."

Beat the tax man! Contribute to CRC!

Congressional Update

Senate Considers $150 Million Fatherhood Bill

House Committee Ties Popular Child Support Bill to Fatherhood Bill

The Senate continues to consider a "Responsible Fatherhood" bill (S. 1364) that would provide $150 million to encourage the role of fathers as parents in low-income families and to help fathers better provide for their children.

The Senate bill is a counterpart to the "Fathers Count Act" (H.R. 3073), passed by the House of Representatives on November 10, 1999, by a vote of 328 to 93.

The House Human Resources Subcommittee passed the Child Support Distribution of Act, H.R. 4678 in June, and "attached" the Fatherhood bill to that Child Support Act. By "re-passing" the very same fatherhood bill the House passed in 1999, the committee is saying to the Senate: "Pass this legislation—we'll make it easy for you—child support and fatherhood, all in one package."

Sponsors of the House version of both bills—The "Fathers Count Act" and the "Child Support Distribution Act," are Reps. Nancy Johnson (R-CT) and Ben Cardin (D-MD).

The Child Support bill would provide more child support money to families leaving welfare and simplify the rules governing the assignment and distribution of child support collected by the states.

Domenici

Bayh

Senate Considers Bill to Help with Emotional and Financial Support of Children

In an unusual display of unity, a dozen different groups, including women's organizations, family organizations, and CRC, all wrote opposing the proposal by House Republicans to increase privatization in the bill. CRC's view was that companies like Lookheed Martin and Maximus would not reach out to parents the way child support offices are increasing doing. House Republicans dropped the privatization provision and asked the groups to now support the amended bill.

A hearing was held July 25 on the Fatherhood legislation by the Senate Finance Committee's Subcommittee on Social Security and Family Policy, under Sen. Don Nickles (R-OK). Because the long-awaited Senate hearing has now been held, there is a strong chance that fatherhood legislation can be worked out between House and Senate versions this Fall.

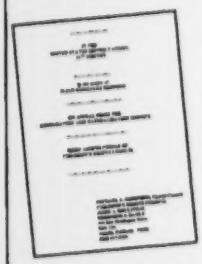
Congress is considering the Fatherhood bill as part of its continuing efforts on welfare reform and welfare-to-work initiatives. With many mothers now coming off welfare, Congress knows that they must have the financial help of fathers. But the Fatherhood bill goes beyond welfare-to-work incentives, and encourages the role of fathers as parents in low- income families and to help fathers better provide for their children.

Some observers have referred to this bill as a parenting bill, because it will have the ultimate purpose of assisting children to have more involvement by both parents in their lives. Some services and programs are expected to reach out to low-income mothers and divorced parents.

Previous legislation that helped parents to function as parents is the $10 million a year in access (visitation) funds that Congress has provided to the states since 1997.

Sponsors of the Senate Fatherhood bill are Sens. Pete Domenici (R-NM) and Evan Bayh (D-IN).

Amicus Briefs May be Available



If your case is on appeal, and you would like CRC to consider writing an amicus brief, contact CRC. CRC cannot handle cases at the trial level, and we do not write the main appeal brief. An amicus brief is a supplemental brief, telling the court why this case is of significance not only to the parties in the case, but to other children and families as well. We generally need 30 to 60 days before the filing deadline.

Chapter Needed in NYS

CRC needs to develop a new chapter in upstate New York. The chapter might be able to run an access grant. For information, contact CRC at 202-547-6227 or call Kim Frey at 607/785-9338.

Family Facts

The Negative Effects of Divorce on Children; and Some Remedies

Patrick F. Fagan and Robert Rector
The Heritage Foundation

Each year more than 1 million American children suffer the divorce of their parents; more-over, half of the children born this year to parents who are married will see their parents divorce before they turn 18. Mounting evidence in social science journals demonstrates the devastating physical, emotional, and financial effects that divorce is having on these children will last well into adulthood and affect future generations: Among those broad and lasting effects are:

* Children whose parents have divorced are increasingly the victims of health, behavioral and emotional problems, are involved more frequently in crime and drug abuse, and have higher rates of suicide:
* Children of divorce perform more poorly in reading, spelling and math, are more likely to repeat a grade and to have higher drop-out rates and lower rates of college graduation
* Families with children that were not poor before the divorce, see their income drop by fifty percent.
* Religious worship has been seen to contribute to better health, longer marriages, and better family life. These areas drop after the parents divorce.

The authors recommend a restoration of the value of marriage back into our society, in the following ways:

* Establish, by resolution, a national goal of reducing divorce;
* Establish pro-marriage demonstration programs;
* Mandate that surplus welfare funds be used to strengthen marriage;
* Rebuild the federal-state system for gathering statistics on marriage and divorce;
* Create a public health campaign;
* Give a one-time tax credit to always-married couples when their youngest children reach 18.

Governing marriage, state laws should:

* Establish a goal to reduce the divorce rate;
* Require married couples with minor children to complete divorce education;
* Promote community-wide marriage programs;
* End "no-fault" divorce for parents with children under age 18;
* Make the Covenant Marriage option available to engaged couples, which lengthens the process for obtaining of a divorce by two years.

CRC has recommended to the Heritage Foundation that they include greater access to both parents as way of assisting in encouraging marriages. The Census Bureau has found that states with the highest amount of shared physical custody subsequently have the lowest divorce rates. The Heritage Foundation is considering this recommendation.

The above facts (except the CRC recommendation) are from the article by Fagan and Rector entitled *The Effects of Divorce on America* in The Heritage Foundation Backgrounder. For copies of the article, visit **www.heritage.org/library/backgrounder/bg1373.html.**

The Heritage Foundation is a conservative think tank based in Washington, D.C.

Shared Parenting More Widespread than Commonly Believed

A recently released report from the U.S. Census Bureau provides new evidence that shared parenting is more widespread than commonly believed. The 1998 Survey of Program Dynamics (SPD), released in May, 2000, is a follow-up of a population survey originally undertaken in 1992. In 1998, the included categories for joint legal and joint physical custody for the first time. Previous Census surveys required children to be reported as either living with mother or living with father, with children in shared custody situations divided between these categories.

Based on this government data, CRC estimates shared custody at approximately zero in 1980, with an increase of just under one point a year between 1980 and 1991, and increasing by about one point a year since then. CRC's model estimates that 11.9% of divorced families had shared physical custody in 1992, with nearly 20% in 1999.

Shared physical custody requiems that a child spent at least 30% of his or her time with a parent on a year-round basis.

For further information, contact Rick Kuhn, CRC Evaluator of Research, care of CRC.

From Volume 15, Number 2, Summer 2000, *Speak Out for Children*, newsletter of the Children's Rights Council
300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002-4389 phone (202) 547-6227

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Children's Rights Council®

In the Combined Federal Campaign,
Contribute to the Children's Rights Council (CRC)

We are #1513 in the Children's Charities of America (CCA). Look for CRC's listing in the index of the CFC Brochure, then turn to the page given for CCA's members. You may donate to CRC online at our website at **www.gocrc.com**

Children's Charities of America

The Children's Rights Council works to assure that children of separation and divorce obtain as much emotional and financial support as children of intact marriages.

Some of CRC's accomplishments:

- Credited with being the organization that convinced Congress, for the first time in history, to provide funds for access/visitation demonstration programs in 1988;
- The results of the above 1988 grants were so positive that in the 1996 Welfare Reform Law, Congress provided $10 million a year for **all** 50 states and jurisdictions to provide access/visitation programs;

- Publicized findings in 1998 from Census Bureau and National Center for Health Statistics that the states with the highest amount of joint physical custody in 1989–1990 had the lowest divorce rates in the subsequent years 1991–1995;
- Publicized findings that children with two parents generally have fewer problems with drugs and crimes than children with only one parent. Obtained changes in attitudes and laws in order to encourage a child's bonding to two parents and extended family;

- Promoted the school-based "Banana Splits" program to help children of separation and divorce channel the transition in their lives into stronger academic achievement;
- CRC and its chapters established transfer sites for children, parenting education and other programs in MD, VA, IL, NY, NE, OH and Washington, D.C.
- Provided assistance to parents and professionals on how to get through the divorce process in the most peaceful, problem-free way, so as to take the stress out of divorce. Money that would be spent on battling between parents is available for the children.

CRC only receives funds that you actually designate!

The Children's Rights Council is a national non-profit organization at 300 "I" St., NE #401, Washington, D.C. 20002-4389. Phone: 202/547-6227 Fax: 202/546-4272. See our web sites at **www.gocrc.com** and **www.info4parents.com**

To obtain a copy of our Catalog of Resources, Directory of Parenting Organizations, Affiliation Book, Annual Report, or latest audit, write or call CRC. Thank you.

Please Copy, Distribute, and Post in Federal Offices, Post Offices, and Military Bases.

Children's Rights Council

In United Way, Workplace, and Corporate Campaigns, Contribute to the Children's Rights Council (CRC).

CRC works to strengthen families through education and advocacy. We favor family formation and family preservation, but if families break up, or are never formed, we work to assure a child the frequent and continuing contact with two parents and extended family the child would normally have during marriage. Our motto is "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

For the child's benefit, CRC favors parenting education before marriage, during marriage, and in the event of separation. We work to demilitarize divorce between parents who are involved in marital disputes, substituting mediation for the adversarial process, and providing for emotional and financial child support. We also favor school-based programs for children at risk.

There are several ways you can contribute to the Children's Rights Council:

- ❤ through the Combined Federal Campaign if you work for the federal government at any federal office, post office, or military base;
- ❤ in the Washington, D.C. and San Francisco Bay Area United Way campaigns;
- ❤ in the Virginia and Maryland State Employee Campaigns;

- ❤ if you wish to contribute to CRC through a United Way where we are not listed, please ask your employer if you can designate (write in) the Children's Rights Council;
- ❤ in corporate campaigns throughout the United States; or
- ❤ if you wish to contribute directly to CRC, write to CRC, 300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002-4389.

Contributions accepted on Visa, MC, or AMEX credit cards.

You may donate to the Children's Rights Council on our Website at **www.gocrc.com**
You may also visit us at **www.info4parents.com**

All contributions are tax-deductible.

CHILDREN FIRST! **THANK YOU!**

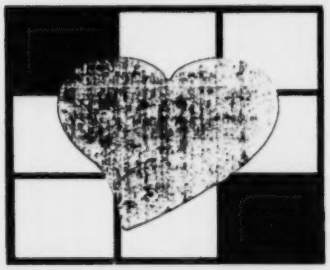
To join, or for more information, call (202) 547-6227.

300 "I" Street N.E. • Suite 401• Washington, D.C. • 20002 • Telephone (202) 547-6227 • Fax (202) 546-4CRC (4272)

Copy, Distribute, and Post for United Way, Workplace, and Corporate Campaigns.

Contribute to the Non-Custodial Parents Quilt

Serge Prengel,
New York City CRC



CRC's "Quilt" is a collection of photographs of divorced parents with their children that is on permanent display on the internet (**www.betterdivorce.com/quilt/**).

The quilt honors the love of the unseen parents - the non-custodial parents who cannot be as involved with their children as they'd like to be.

There is symbolic value in this quilt. For one thing, this virtual quilt works the same way a real quilt does. As individual non-custodial parents, we feel that our love for our children is not seen by the world, just as the pieces of fabric that make up a quilt are relatively insignificant by themselves. Put together, our capacity to give love and warmth becomes more visible to all.

When you look at the quilt, you'll be struck by the variety of situations and moods captured by these snapshots. They're all different, and yet, they're all expressions of how precious the parent-child relationship is, and how much it means to us. When you click on any picture on the quilt, you can go to a page where that picture is bigger, and the parent has described in a few words the family's situation.

The quilt is divided into two sections, the fathers' section and the mothers' section, to clearly affirm that children need both a mother and a father. This is in line with CRC's mission—we believe that children need continued contact with both parents after divorce, and we work to keep both parents involved in the lives of their children. The quilt is a work in progress that is expanding as more loving parents submit pictures. Stop by the website to learn more about the Quilt and see how you can become a part of it: **www.betterdivorce.com/quilt/**

CRC Needs

- Free or reduced-fee office space. Get a tax write-off as you help kids and CRC. 1,200 square feet or more anywhere in the Washington, D.C. area (Maryland, D.C. or Virginia).
- A new photocopy machine.
- Volunteers to help with filing, phone calls, and writing letters.
- Our chapters need computers.
- Lawyers to write CRC Amicus Briefs on appeal.

Our chapters around the country could use office space, photocopiers, and volunteers, too!

3 CRC Interns (l to r) Carnright, Gianotti, Randall, at Fathers Day Rally

Fathers Day Rally

Nearly 100 people gathered on Fathers Day to march from the White House to the Capitol as part of "FathersDay2000." This was an effort to support the tens of thousands of dads nationwide who, organizers noted, are kept from participating in the rearing of their children. Speakers shared personal stories and called for new laws to protect their rights as caregivers.

Marchers came from all over the country and from various backgrounds. The crowd included men, women, and children. Representatives of the Children's Rights Council showed support for the march's theme of equal custody rights for fathers and mothers. CRC Interns Amy Carnright, Janee Gianotti, and Jennifer Randall carried a CRC banner and handed out CRC newsletters.

The crowd, although small, has been growing in number over the three years since David Wilson and Greg Romeo began organizing the march. Pictures of the march can be seen on the website <**www.FathersDay2000.org**>. Plans are already in the works for a FathersDay2001.

We thank Bladen Lithographics in Gaithersburg, MD for providing printing services to CRC.

Here are some important bills and resolutions in Congress affecting families. Write to your House member or Senator to let them know what you think of a particular bill. They do not get enough mail on issues of concern to CRC members. So contact them! Let them know what sort of legislation you would like to see passed!

Write

Senator —— (name)
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative — (name)
Washington, D.C. 20515

House Bills

Bills Affecting Child Custody Stalking Prevention

H.R. 1869, the Stalking Prevention and Victim Protection Act, passed the House, referred to Senate Judiciary Committee, 202-224-8081, sponsored by Rep. Sue Kelly (D-NY). A companion Senate measure was introduced in January 2000 by Sen. John Ashcroft (S. 2011). A similar bill (S. 1660) sponsored by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison was previously introduced. The bills would amend Title 18 of the U.S. Code and broaden the definition of stalking in interstate or foreign commerce to apply to those who act "with the intent to injure or harass" another person and engage in conduct "that places an individual, a member of their immediate family or intimate partner in reasonable fear" of death or bodily injury.

The bills would not take the place of state anti-stalking statutes but would provide for federal prosecution where a stalker threatens an individual by telephone, mail, or e-mail. The bills indicate that stalking includes "harassment," a term not defined in U.S. statutes. Because harassment is a charge frequently leveled by one parent against another during divorce, the bill will almost certainly lead to greater abuse of court restraining orders by vindictive parents. Under the new proposals, no clear guidelines are given for the removal of restraining orders.

The Ashcroft bill is being considered by the Constitutional Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, (202-224-8081).

S. 51, Title II, combined with S. 245, Senate Judiciary Committee, 202-224-8081, Study of Child Custody Laws in Domestic Violence Cases, introduced by Sen. Joe Biden (D-DE), Authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to States and Indian tribal governments to enable them to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements to assist public or private non-profit entities in establishing and operating supervised visitation centers for purposes of facilitating supervised visitation and visitation exchange of children by and between parents. Requires that priority be given to States that consider domestic violence in making a custody decision and require findings on the record. Currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Write to Sen. Biden, Senate Judiciary Committee, and your Senator, stating that Congress has already provided for the exchange sites we seek, but in a more general, family-friendly way, in the 1996 Welfare Reform Law. CRC seeks an increase in funding for those access/visitation/parenting programs.

S. 51, Sec. 302, Senate Judiciary Committee, Directs the Attorney General to study and report to Congress on Federal and State laws relating to child custody, including the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act of 1980, and their effect on child custody cases in which domestic violence is a factor. Requires study to examine the burdens and risks encountered by victims of domestic violence arising from compliance with the full faith and credit (and judicial jurisdiction) requirements of that Act.

Write to your Senator and Sen. Biden stating that Sec. 302 of the proposed law should direct the Attorney General to also report on the frequency of use and effect of false allegations of abuse in the midst of custody (visitation) battles, which have been noted by the American Bar Association and other organizations. America must deal with false abuse accusations in order to help children who really have been abused, as officials in Texas and other states have decided.

The Senate has two other VAWA measures. S. 245, was introduced in January 1999 by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and referred to the Judiciary Committee. Another bill, S. 1321, was re-introduced by Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-WI) which did not pass in the earlier session of Congress. As part of that bill, supervised visitation centers would be established for children who witness domestic violence at home. The bill would also increase the role of schools in providing assistance.

Bills Affecting Financial Child Support

Denial of Passports

H.R. 521. Denial of Passports to Noncustodial Parents in Cases of Nonpayment of Child Support. Introduced by Rep. Robert Andrews (D-NJ). Referred to House International Relations Committee and the House Subcommittee for International Operations and Human Rights. It is a bill that would deny passports to noncustodial parents subject to State arrest warrants in cases of nonpayment of child support awards.

Write to Chairman Benjamin A. Gilman, (R-NY), House International Relations Committee and Chairman Christopher Smith (R-NJ), House Subcommittee for International Operations and Human Rights, Washington, D.C. 20515, asking that passports should also be denied to individuals in violation of custody and access/visitation orders.

Bankruptcy Reform Act Provisions Would Prioritize Financial Child Support

The Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1999, H.R. 833, introduced by Rep. George Gekas, passed in the House on

Continued on page 16

Child Custody

Continued from page 15

May 5, 1999. A similar measure from Sen. Grassley (R-IA) was considered by the Senate, S. 625. Senator Hatch (R-UT) in November, 1999, gave a speech on the Senate floor where he proposed strengthening the protection of child support obligations during bankruptcy proceedings. The Senate voted to act on HR 833 which passed the Senate on February 2, 2000, and the bill went to a conference committee to reconcile differences between House and Senate versions.

The bill is expected to be signed into law by President Clinton by the time you receive this newsletter. Overall, the bill gives greater protection to collect support obligations than current law provides. The new law would ensure that available assets first go to pay a support obligation, before credit card debt, tax obligation, or any other debt. Previously, certain obligations, such as taxes, were to be discharged prior to child support arrearages. The new law would change that priority, and if there are any assets, they would go first to child support. The new bill also toughens requirements that the bankruptcy trustee notify persons owed child support and government collection agencies of the pending bankruptcy proceeding.

For further information, contact House Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, 202/225-2835.

Bill Would Require IRS to Collect Support

H.R.1488, hearing held by House Human Resources Subcommittee, 202-225-1025, but bill not expected to be passed. Compassion for Children and Child Support Enforcement Act of 1999 introduced by Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL). This bill would require the Internal Revenue Service to collect and disburse child support payments. A hearing was held by the Human Resources subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee (202/225-1025) on March 16, 2000. State child support administrators and other child support experts oppose federalizing child support, and the bill is not expected to be approved by the subcommittee.

Child Support Disbursement Unit

S.1033, passed by House and Senate. Child Support Penalty Fairness Act. introduced by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). Referred to Senate Finance Committee. It is a bill to amend Title IV of the Social Security Act to coordinate the penalty for the failure of a State to operate a State child support disbursement unit with the alternative penalty procedure for failures to meet data processing requirements.

Bills to Strengthen Family Life and Marriage

Ehlers

H. Res. 280, passed the House on June 12, 2000, sponsored by Rep. Vernon J. Ehlers (R-MI), referred to the Senate. Recognizes the importance of strong marriage in general, and the Greater Grand Rapids Community Marriage Policy in particular. That policy outlines a menu for a successful marriage, including not marrying too young, finishing school, choosing a mate with similar values, dating at least a year before marriage, completing a premarital course, waiting to cohabit until after marriage, emphasizing the positive, sharing household duties, worshiping together, having fun together, and remembering that commitment is the foundation to successful marriage. **Urge your Senators to pass this Resolution.**

Moynihan

S. 208 Enhancing Family Life Act, sponsored by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan was referred to the Finance Committee. It would provide "second chance homes" to custodial parents under age 19 and their children where they would have a supportive and supervised living arrangement and be required to learn parenting skills, including child development, family budgeting, health and nutrition, and other skills to promote their long-term economic independence and well-being of their children.

CRC recommends writing to Sen. Moynihan to ask that connecting children to both of the child's parents be part of the bill.

CRC Wants Chapters in Every State

CRC WANTS CHAPTERS IN EVERY STATE! GO CRC!!

For development of chapters in states that do not yet have any CRC chapters:

Re: states out west, contact CRC Board Member from the chapters Terry Cady in Illinois.

Re: states in the south, contact Board Advisor from the chapters Fred Wall in North Carolina.

Re: states in the east, contact Board Advisor from the chapters Margaret Wuwert in Ohio.

See their names and numbers on page 30.

For states in the east, you may also contact Ron Pilcher, 513/755-2932.

Join CRC, then ask for a copy of the 100-page CRC booklet that explains everything you need to know about affiliation. The cost of the booklet is $15.00.

Intellectual Property Protection

Charlie Ruggiero, who obtained trademark protection for the name and logo "Children's Rights Council" and the name and logo for our newsletter "Speak Out for Children" is a specialist in trademark, patent, copyright, and licensing law. He is a partner in the law firm of Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero and Perle, 1 Landmark Square, Suite 903, Stamford, CT 06901, telephone (203) 327-6067.

Disabuse Congress of the Notion that Shared Parenting is Linked to Violence

An anti-joint custody provision originally appeared in Section 241 of H.R. 3514, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) II and a 1998 House Joint Resolution (HJR 182), which thanks in part to efforts of CRC members was not adopted.

A similar anti shared parenting provision was re-inserted in the 1999 version of the Violence Against Women Act, H.R. 357, introduced by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich) and supported by 178 co-sponsors. CRC members were urged to write to Congress opposing the "primary caretaker" parent language in Section 241.

So many of you wrote in opposition to that anti-joint resolution, that opponents of shared parenting have now "watered down" the anti-joint custody resolution.

We must oppose that resolution, also, but first let us explain that CRC is very concerned about family violence, and the need to prevent it and treat it. Family violence is not acceptable. CRC works with advocates to prevent and reduce family violence.

Researchers have found that there is no link between shared parenting and family violence. Quite the reverse. Family violence, as well as other societal problems, including high crime and drug rates, lower academic performance, teenage suicide, promiscuity, and other society problems, are linked to a different kind of family structure—the single parent family.

Many children of single-parent households turn out fine, but statistically, anti-social behaviors have been linked for the past 30 by all researchers to a lack of two parents in a child's life.

As just one example, the 6 year old boy who shot and killed a 6 year old girl in a school in Michigan was growing up a crack house without either his father or his mother.

The watered down version of the anti-joint custody resolution in H.R. 3315 states:

It is the sense of Congress that for the purpose of determining child custody, it is not in the best of children to:

- force parents to share custody over the objection of one or both parents where there is a history of domestic violence; or
- make "friendly parent' provisions a factor when there is abuse of one parent against another or a child.

Please photocopy or retype this letter and send to your House member. Get your friends to write, also!

Date
Your address

Congress member (add name)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear—

I ask you to please oppose Title VI, Sec. 601 of H.R. 3315 (The Ready Act—reducing the Effects of Abuse and Domestic Violence on Youth). **I am concerned that the language of the resolution might mistakenly convey an impression to federal, state, or local policymakers that domestic violence shares a link in some manner with shared custody.**

This would be a terrible disservice to all children at risk from family violence. There is abundant evidence that the great majority of child victims of physical abuse and neglect live in single parent homes. By contrast, the incidence of child abuse and neglect of children in shared legal and physical custody arrangements is very low. Children raised without their fathers as well as mothers are twice as likely to be victims of abuse and five times as likely to live in poverty compared to children both of whose parents, dads and moms, participate in the parenting process.

The language of the resolution is over-broad.

The use of the terms "history of domestic violence" and "abuse" might be subject to overly-expansive interpretation. States should design their own specific, detailed statutory criteria narrowly tailored to those limited instances in which shared or joint custody would be inappropriate.

For example, although the District of Columbia starts with a presumption for joint custody, there is an exception in those instances where a judicial officer finds by a preponderance of the evidence that an intra-family offense as defined in the D.C. Code has taken place.

Most parents are loving and fit, and thus shared parenting should not be discouraged, even through a well-intended resolution.

Sign your name

Stabenow Running for Senate

Rep. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), a long time advisor to the CRC, is running for the Senate in Michigan this Fall. When she was a member of the state senate in Michigan, Stabenow strengthened the "Friend of the Court" provision to provide for expedited handling of access complaints.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Children's Rights Council

2000 CATALOG OF RESOURCES
for parents and professionals

MANY BOOKS DISCOUNTED!
Buy at Discount & Sell for Full Price to Your Group
Make $$$ or Give Copies to Educate Judges or Policymakers
Discounted Books Are in BoldType

BOOKS FOR KIDS

NEW!

A Heart Full of Love, written by Bette S. Margolis, illustrated by Christie L. Kline. A wonderful book for that special 7- to 9-year-old in your life who is undergoing parental divorce.
SB-101 ---------- $15.00

I Love You More Than..., by Elizabeth Hickey and James Cohen. Illustrated by Lynda Smart Brown, 1998.
HB-102 ---------- $16.95

Daddy Day, Daughter Day, by CNN's Larry King and Chaia King, 1997. A true story of divorce told through both a child's and a father's perspective.
SB-103 ---------- $12.95

How to Survive Your Parent's Divorce: Kids Advice to Kids, by Gayle Kimball, 1994. Easy-to-read one-of-a-kind guide for young people and their parents as they reshape their lives post-divorce.
SB-104 ---------- Reg. $9.95 *Discount Price $4.00

I Think Divorce Stinks, by Marcia Lebowitz, 1992. Helps children recognize that it is appropriate to have negative feelings about divorce and to express those feelings.
SB-105 ---------- $4.95

What am I Doing in a Stepfamily?, by Claire Berman, 1994. A children's book explaining how two families can be better than one.
SB-106 ---------- $12.00

It's Not Your Fault, Koko Bear, by Vicki Lansky, 1998. Koko Bear can help children understand divorce and sends a good message.
SB-107 ---------- $5.99

The Divorce Workbook, by Sally Ives, David Fassler & Michelle Lasch, 1985 How to facilitate honest and open communication between adults and children at the traumatic time of separation and divorce. Q and A for kids.
SB-108 ---------- $15.95

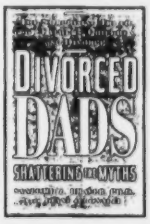
My Book, My Self for Boys, by Linda Madaras and Area Madaras, 1995. The "What's Happening to My Body for Boys."
SB-109 ---------- Reg. $11.95 *Discount Price $6.00

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

50/50 Parenting, by Gayle Kimball, Ph.D. Almost 300 co-parents and 83 children report on life in Married, Divorced, and Step-family situations.
SB-201 ---------- $9.95

Divorce Book for Parents, by Vicki Lansky, 1987. Warmly supportive and reassuring, this comprehensive guide speaks to all divorced and divorcing parents.
HB-203 ---------- $6.00

The Divorce Help Source Book, by Margorie Engel, 1994. Combines sound advice with hundreds of potential sources of help to assist you in getting the results you deserve.
SB-204 ---------- Reg. $17.95 *Discount Price $7.00



Divorced Dads, Shattering the Myths, by Sanford L. Braver, Ph.D., 1998. The surprising truth about fathers, children and divorce.
HB-205 ---------- $24.95

For the Sake of the Children, by Kris Kline and Stephen Pew, 1992. Discusses how to share your children with your ex-spouse despite your anger. Kline is CRC's Florida coordinator. PHOTOCOPIES ONLY!
HB-206 ---------- Reg. $18.95 *Discount Price $9.00

Divorce: Crisis, Challenge, or Relief?, by David A. Chiriboga and Linda S. Catron, 1991. Addresses the impact of divorce on children through different stages of their lives.
SB-207 ---------- Reg. $22.50 *Discount Price $5.00

Why Parents Disagree: How Women and Men Parent Differently and How We Can Work Together, by Dr. Ron Taffel, 1994. An explanation of why parents begin to lead different lives and how parents can raise kids as partners, not enemies.
SB-208 ---------- $23.00

The Good Divorce, by Constance R. Ahrons, Ph.D., 1994. An outstanding book with a powerful message: while divorce is not 'good,' there is a path to a 'good divorce' where parents cooperate fully for the sake of their children.
HB-209 ---------- $23.00

A Hole in My Heart, by Claire Berman, 1991. A book that will enable adult children of divorce to recognize the role they play in changing patterns in their lives.
SB-210 ---------- Reg. $10.00 *Discount Price $5.00

Families Apart, by Melinda Blau, 1993. 10 Keys to Successful Co-Parenting. A blend of the author's own research, and that of other experts, and rich in anecdotal information.
SB-211 ---------- Reg. $22.95 *Discount Price $10.00

REVISED!

Mom's House, Dad's House, by Isolina Ricci, Ph.D., 1998. Making shared custody work: How parents can make two homes for their children after divorce. 100 **New** pages to this classic book!
SB-212 ---------- $20.00

Negotiating Love: How Women and Men Can Resolve Their Differences, by Riki Robbins Jones, 1995. Points our destructive habits by both genders which, when realized, strengthen families and relationships.
SB-213 ---------- $14.00

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Surviving Divorce, by Paula Weintraub and Terry Hillman, 1996.
SB-214 ---------- Reg. $16.95 *Discount Price $7.00

Putting Kids First, by Michael Oddenino. A must read for caring parents and professionals, by CRC's General Counsel. Includes a children's bill of rights.
SB-215 ---------- $9.95

Second Chances, by Judith Wallerstein and Sandra Blakeslee, 1989. Based on ten year longitudinal study of the effects of divorce on adults and children.
HB-216 ---------- Reg. $14.95 *Discount Price $5.00

Surviving the Break-Up, How Children and Parents Cope with Divorce, by Judith Wallerstein, Ph.D. and Joan Kelly, Ph.D., 1980. A classic that is still valid in discussing the problems of children being raised by single parents.
SB-217 ---------- Reg. $14.00 *Discount Price $10.00

REVISED!

Creating a Successful Parenting Plan, by Dr. A. Jayne Major. Nationally acclaimed author of "Breakthrough Parenting" and "Winning the Custody War Without Casualties"
SB-218 ---------- $24.95

3 Steps to a Strong Family, by Linda and Richard Eyre, 1994. A 3-step program that can make your family life happier, less stressful, and more rewarding.
HB-219 ---------- $19.50

Familyhood: Nurturing the Values that Matter, by Dr. Lee Salk, 1992. A practical, inspiring guide to communicating values.
HB-220 ---------- Reg. $21.00 *Discount Price $10.00

The Best Parent is Both Parents: A Guide to Shared Parenting in the 21st Century, the CRC book edited by David L. Levy. Order bulk copies (10 or more) for only $4 a copy, resell the copies for the list price of $10 each, and make a profit for you or your organization! Individual copies will continue to be available from CRC for $10 each, plus $4 for postage, as long as supplies last. If you would like copies (individual or bulk order) autographed by David L. Levy, just state to whom you would like it autographed (yourself, perhaps your children—give their names).
SB-221 ---------- Order 10 copies or more each only $4.00
---------- Individual copies $10.00

Helping Your Kids Cope With Divorce, by M. Gary Neuman, L.M.H.C. 1996. This book is based on the nationally renowned "Sandcastles" workshop.
HB-222 ---------- $25.00

The Sibling Society, by Robert Bly, 1996, author of "Iron John." Describes our culture as one where adults remain children, and children have no desire to become adults—a nation of squabbling siblings.
HB-223 ---------- Reg. $25.00 *Discount Price $12.00

NEW!

Ceasefire, by Cathy Young, 1999, syndicated columnist. Why women and men must join forces to achieve true equality; how that will help children, too.
HB-224 ---------- $25.00

Saying No Is Not Enough, by Richard Schwebel, Ph.D., 1989. Raising children who make wise decisions about drugs and alcohol.
SB-225 ---------- $11.00

Abolition of Marriage, by Maggie Gallagher, 1996, syndicated columnist. How we destroy lasting love.
HB-226 ---------- $25.00

Friends for Life, by Susan Jonas and Marilyn Nissenson, 1997. Enriching the bond between mothers and their adult daughters.
HB-227 ---------- $29.00

Talking Back to Ritalin, by Peter R. Breggin, M.D., 1998, 4-time guest on Oprah. What doctors aren't telling you about the dangers of stimulants.
HB-228 ---------- $25.00

BOOKS FOR STEPPARENTS

How to Win as a Stepfamily, by Emily Visher, Ph.D. and John Visher, M.D., 1982. The co-founders of the Stepfamily Association of America answer questions and give suggestions on how to make stepfamilies work.
HB-301 ---------- $13.95

Making it as a Stepparent, New Roles/ New Rules, by Claire Berman, 1986. Former president of the Stepfamily Association of America provides practical help and insights.
SB-302 ---------- $7.95

Stepfamilies Stepping Ahead, edited by Mala Burt for the Stepfamily Association of America.
SB-303 ---------- $9.95

BOOKS FOR GRANDPARENTS

Grandparenting in a Changing World, by Edna LeShan, 1997. "Common sense presented with uncommon grace." —Kirkus Reviews.
SB-401 ---------- Reg. $12.00 *Discount Price $6.00

BOOKS FOR SINGLE PARENTS

Still a Dad, The Divorced Father's Journey, by CRC's own Serge Prengel, 1998. Published with praise from Warren Farrell, Karen DeCrow, and James A. Cook.
SB-2501 ---------- $13.95

Surviving Divorce—Women's Resources After Separation, by Mavis Maclean, 1991. Women coping with earnings, maintenance and welfare in the U.S., France, and Great Britain.
HB-502 ---------- $5.00

Another Way Home: A Single Father's Story, by John Thorndike, 1996. A memoir of Thorndike's life with his wife and the difficult decisions he has had to make regarding their son's life.
HB-503 ---------- Reg. $24.00 *Discount Price $12.00

Fatherless America, by David Blankenhorn, 1995. Shows the devastating consequences of fatherlessness in both individual families and in our society.
HB-504 ---------- Reg. $23.00 *Discount Price $10.00

The Masculine Mystique: The Politics of Masculinity, by Andrew Kimbrell, 1995. Presents the argument that American men are in crisis and includes what lead to this phenomenon.
HB-505 ---------- Reg. $23.00 *Discount Price $10.00

The Daddy Track and the Single Father, by Geoffery L. Greif, 1990. A book about successfully coping with kids, housework, a job, an ex-wife, a social life, and the courts.
HB-506 ---------- $19.95

Money-Smart Divorce. What Women Need to Know about Money and Divorce, by Esther M. Berger, 1996.
SB-507 ---------- $22.00

Why Men Are the Way They Are, by Warren Farrell, 1986. Provides insights into loved one's secret insights and desires.
SB-509 ---------- Reg. $5.99 *Discount Price $3.00

Fathers' Rights, by Jeffrey Leving. A best-selling book for fathers who want to maintain contact with their children.
SB-510 ---------- $12.50

The Divorced Parent: Success Strategies for Raising Your Children After Separation, by Stephanie Marston, 1994. Provides practical advice and specific tools for raising well-adjusted children.
HB-511 ---------- $21.00

Father's Day, by Bill McCoy, 1995. Witty and wise notes from a new dad in the real world.
HB-512 ---------- Reg. $22.00 *Discount Price $11.00

Like Father, Like Son, By Hunter S. Fulghum, 1996. A collection of stories on being a man at midlife in America, with introduction by Robert Fulghum.
HB-513 ---------- Reg. $21.95 *Discount Price $11.00

Child Custody Made Simple, by Webster Watnik, 1997. Answers all your questions about child custody and child support for a single parent.
SB-514 ---------- $21.95

The Single Parent's Money Guide, by Emily Card, 1996. A plan for managing your money when you are the only one your family can count on.
SB-515 ---------- Reg. $14.95 *Discount Price $6.00

Questions from Dad, by CRC Spokesperson and pop singer Dwight Twilley, 1994. A very cool way to communicate with your child. Introduced by Dr. Susan Forward.
SB-516 ---------- $17.00

I Am the Mother of Sons. Poems by Jayne Jaudon Ferrer, 1995. Illustrated by Lina Levy.
HB-517 ---------- $10.00

Men on Divorce—The Other Side of the Story, edited by Penny Kaganoff and Susan Spano, 1997.
SB-518 ---------- Reg. $12.00 *Discount Price $6.00

One Swell Dad, by Pat Ross, 1992. The book of memories and expressions of fatherly endearment from the past.
HB-519 ---------- $9.00

MEDIATION & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Family Evaluations in Child Custody, Mediation, Arbitration and Litigation, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1989. In this update, Gardner proposes a three-phase system to remove child custody evaluations from courtroom litigation.
HB-601 ---------- **$45.00**

Healing Hearts, Helping Children and Adults Recover from Divorce, by Elizabeth Hickey, M.S.W., CRC's National Parent Education Director, and Elizabeth Dalton, attorney and mediator
HB-602 ---------- **$15.00**

Parent Vs. Parent: How You and Your Child Can Survive the Custody Battle, by Stephen P. Herman, M.D., 1990. Expert advice for parents through all stages of the divorce process.
HB-603 ---------- **$20.95**

Between Love and Hate, A Guide to Civilized Divorce, by Lois Gold, M.S.W., 1992. Learn the fundamental skills of negotiation conflict resolution and mediation, for everyone's good.
SB-604 ---------- **Reg. $13.95 *Discount Price $6.00**

LEGAL ISSUES

NEW!

From Courtship to Courtroom: What Divorce Law Is Doing to Mariage, by Jed H. Abraham, 2000. Abraham, a lawyer, mediator, and joint custody advocate, writes a chilling picture of how today's divorce laws make life miserable for families.
SB-701 ---------- **$15.00**

A Family Divided, by Robert Mendelson, 1997. A discussion of a divorced father's struggle with the child custody industry.
HB-703 ---------- **Reg. $21.00 *Discount Price $10.00**

The Custody Revolution, by Richard Warshak, 1992. The Father Factor and the Motherhood Mystique.
HB-604 ---------- **Reg. $21.00 *Discount Price $15.00**

Custody for Fathers, by Carleen and Michael Brennan, 1994. Includes more than 100 strategies that have helped fathers win (share) custody of their children in a mom-biased system.
HB-705 ---------- **Reg. $24.95 *Discount Price $12.00**

Divorce and the Myth of Lawyers, by Lenard Marlow, J.D., 1992. The exposition of myths regarding the legal system and its effects on divorcing couples.
HB-706 ---------- **$10.95**

The Father's Emergency Guide to Divorce/Custody Battle, A Tour Through the Predatory World of Judges, Lawyers, Psychologists and Social Workers in the Subculture of Divorce, by Robert Seidenberg, with the legal insights of Williams Dawes, Esq., 1997.
SB-707 ---------- **$15.00**

Every Parent's Guide to the Law, by Deborah L. Forman. Everything you need to know about legal issues affecting parents and children pre-birth through the child-rearing years.
SB-708 ---------- **$18.00**

PARENTAL KIDNAPPING

NEW! Autographed Copies!
They Are My Children, Too, by Catherine Meyer, 1999. Powerful account of a mother's loss of her children. A case of international parental kidnapping. Written by CRC's new Honorary President.
HB-801 ---------- **$23.00**

When Parents Kidnap, by Geoffrey Greif and Rebecca Hegar, 1993. This book captures the experiences of parents searching for their children and abductors who have taken them; also makes public policy recommendations.
HB-902 ---------- **$22.95**

CHILD ABUSE

Ashes to Ashes...Families to Dust, by Dean Tong, 1996. False accusations of child abuse: A road map for survivors that helps to answer their questions.
SB-901 ---------- **$15.95**

The Parental Alienation Syndrome, A guide for mental health and legal professionals, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1995. An authoritative work on the Parental Alienation Syndrome.
SB-903 ---------- **$35.00**

Children Held Hostage, Dealing with Programmed and Brainwashed Children, by Stanley S. Clawar, Ph.D., C.C.S. and Brynne Rivlin, M.S.S., 1991. This book is approved by the American Bar Association.
SB-904 ---------- **$50.00**

Recognizing Child Abuse, by Douglas Besharov, Ph.D., a resident scholar of the American Enterprise Institute. A comprehensive guide to recognizing, preventing, and handling child abuse and neglect.
SB-905 ---------- **$12.00**

The Book of David, How Preserving Families Can Cost Children's Lives, by Richard Gelles, 1996. A convincing and dramatic book about the flaws of the child welfare system.
HB-906 ---------- **$23.00**

The Abuse Excuse—And Other Cop-Outs, by noted lawyer Alan Dershowitz, 1994. Sob stories and evasions of responsibility.
HB-908 ---------- Reg. $23.00 *Discount Price $10.00

VIDEOS

Children: The Experts on Divorce, by Elizabeth Hickey, MSW 1994. The children speak from their own experience of going through their parents' divorce. A CRC-award winning video prepared by CRC's National Parent Education Director.
V101 ---------- $25.00

Don't Forget The Children, by the Dallas, Texas Association of Young Lawyers. A CRC award-winning video that provides information on co-parenting in the event of divorce.
V102 ---------- $20.00

Psychotherapeutic & Legal Approaches To Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS), by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. An in-depth discussion of ways that parents can alienate the child against the other parent.
V103 ---------- $25.00

REPORTS

UPDATED 1997, Interference with Access (Visitation) as a Tort. Not a frequent remedy, but one that may be available.
R101 ---------- $10.00

Send for a list of other reports.

PINS AND BUTTONS

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Each white ceramic mug says "Children's Rights Council" and "The Best Parent is Both Parents." A Mark Roseman creation.
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11 CRC Interns Have Productive Summer

(l to r) Randall, Carnright, Blackwell, Chavez, Clavecillas

(l to r) Bailey, Shark, Dorris, B. Gilmore and M. Gilmore

Maggiacomo

CRC Office Manager Helps Interns

(l to r)Yang and Gianotti

11 students from colleges all across the country signed up to be interns at CRC this summer.

Interns represent CRC on Capitol Hill, where they discuss family law legislation with Congressional staff, work on special projects like the press conference to present awards to 7 states (see elsewhere in this newsletter), assist in fundraising projects, help parents who call the office for help, monitor the courts, do research on children's needs, and other projects.

CRC has had about 200 college students over the years, some of whom sign up after seeing our year-round request for interns on our internet site, **www.gocrc.com**

CRC also obtains interns from three different Washington based organizations, the Fund for American Studies, Washington Semester program, and American University's intern program, that enlist students from colleges.

Many students come to Washington every year; some sign up to work for a Congressmember of work for a public service agency such as CRC. Some spend full time with CRC; others attend a few classes in addition to the unpaid internship.

This summer was the first time CRC had an intern from a service academy — Janee Gianotti, a cadet captain at the Air Force Academy in Colorado.

We had two law student interns, Melissa Dorris, University of Illinois Law School, and Stephanie Shark, Temple University Law School. They worked on legal issues for CRC.

Mike Gilmore, a student who is blind, attends the University of California at Davis. He interned with his brother Brian, who just graduated from high school.

Other summer interns:

- Carol Bailey, who graduated in June from the University of Washington;
- Tabitha Blackwell, a junior at Campbell University in North Carolina;
- Connie Yang, University of Pennsylvania.
- Amy Carnright, who enters her senior year at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia;
- Jennifer Randall came to CRC straight from a semester of study and internship for a member of parliament in London: she is a junior at Notre Dame University in Indiana;
- Joy Clavecillas came to CRC after two years of study in Paris. She attends George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

CRC Office Manager Julie Maggiacomo, who has an M.A. in world politics, helped the interns.

Maryland Can Use DNA to Challenge Support

From the Washington Post, July 2, 2000—Maryland's highest court has ruled that men who have legally acknowledged fathering a child can challenge those paternity agreements, even several years later. Judges who dissented from the court's opinion predicted that it could leave countless children "fatherless and without support."

The hotly debated 4 to 3 decision by the state Court of Appeals marks Maryland's entry into an area of law that is just now emerging across the country as more people gain access to DNA analysis, which can prove or disprove a child's parentage with almost 100 percent accuracy.

The judges ruled that blood or genetic tests that can determine paternity must be ordered if requested by the men.

The three dissenting judges and some child advocates criticized the ruling, which they said neglected to consider the "best interests of a child."

They said they fear it will inspire thousands of men to seek new tests in hopes of shirking long-standing child-support orders.

Kaiser

"What this opens up is a question of paternity in cases where it should have been resolved a long time ago," said Teresa Kaiser, executive director of the state Child Support Enforcement Administration. "Many children who think they have a father may end up not having one."

But a majority of the court argued that fairness and truth are paramount over "best interests" in any paternity proceedings, whenever they take place.

"Simply stated, the fact of who the father of a child is cannot be changed by what might be in the best interest of the child," Judge Dale R. Cathell wrote for the majority.

The decision stems from three cases involving two men and three children—now in or entering their teens—the men once acknowledged to have fathered.

A Talbot County man, identified only as Tyrone W., entered a paternity agreement with his ex-girlfriend after she gave birth in 1989. Though he did not request a blood test, he believed he had fathered her son, T.R., and agreed to pay child support.

But years later, the woman began dating another old boyfriend, and Tyrone testified that she implied to him that someone else might be the father. In 1998, he sought to overturn the old paternity agreement, but the local courts found that with no evidence of past fraud or error, he had waited too long to request new genetic tests of T.R., who was then 9.

Grandparents Suffer Setback, But Still Have Rights

O'Connor

O'Connor wrote opinion striking down Washington State law that "any person" can seek access of a child

Grandparents suffered a legal setback, but have some rights to see their grandchildren, the U.S. Supreme Court decided on June 5, 2000.

The court found Washington State law, under which Jennifer and Gary Troxel had standing to seek court-ordered visitations with their grandchildren, to be unconstitutional.

By a 6-3 vote, the court invalidated Washington's broad law that gave "any person" standing to petition the court for visitation rights to children at any time. The court said that the parents have the constitutional right to determine the best manner in which to raise, nurture, and educate their children without undue intervention by the state. This parental right is rooted in the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

The Children's Rights Council strongly supports the right of parents to be primarily responsible for their children, but recognizes the unique contributions grandparents play in their grandchildren's lives.

This was the point we made on national media, including an appearance on the Today show by CRC President David L. Levy.

Some of the other points we made:

* Oftentimes, grandparents are on the "wrong side" of a custody battle, and get access cut off by the parent who wins custody. Grandparents and parents must make special efforts to get along for the sake of the child.
* Sometimes, parents are angry because grandparents won't buy them a new house or make other purchases. Grandparents, if you have the money, consider buying them the house.
* Try to stay out of court. Court is not friendly to children or families. Try to work things out amicably. If necessary, enlist the help of a minister, pastor or rabbi. If that doesn't work, obtain the services of a mediator. Court is the last resort.
* Under the Supreme Court ruling, even if a court grants grandparent visitation, they must now take into consideration the parents wishes more seriously than ever before. This will indeed make it more difficult for grandparents to see their grandchildren if the parents object.

Background

Overview of Grandparent Laws

All 50 states have grandparent visitation statutes, most of them allowing a

grandparent to petition a court for access during separation and divorce, but some allow grandparents to petition for access even for an intact marriage. Only 3 states (Washington, Alaska and Connecticut) allow "any person" to petition the court for access. During oral argument, Justice Antonin Scalia was concerned that a guitar teacher who is cut off from giving future lessons on the guitar to a child might petition the court to allow such access. (CRC Note: such cases are extremely rare).

The Minnesota statute that allows grandparents visitation if in the best interest of the child, while not interfering with the parent-child relationship, is an example of the more narrow verbiage in which many states constructed such laws. It was the broadness of Washington's law that caused it to be scrutinized under the Fourteenth Amendment.

In one sense, the court's ruling suggests that every family be treated in a similar fashion—as though there are "parents" to make decisions on who may have access to their children. The weakness in this belief falls where the ideal of nuclear families is addressed. The "nuclear family" has become an outdated stereotype. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, in 1998, approximately 5.6%, or 4 million children under the age of 18, lived with their grandparents. In changing times, each instance must be addressed on a case by case basis, the court said.

Implications for the Future

Court Possibly Strengthens Shared Parenting Prospects

In the grandparents' visitation case, the U.S. Supreme Court appeared to strengthen a long line of Supreme Court cases that uphold the right of parents to make decisions concerning their children.

In earlier cases, such as Franz v. United States, 707 F.2d 582, 601 (D.C. Cir. 1983), the Supreme Court recognized that "a parent's right to the preservation of his relationship with his child derives from the fact that the parent's achievement of a rich and rewarding life is likely to depend significantly on his ability to participate in the rearing of his children. A child's corresponding right to protection from interference in the relationship derives from the psychological importance of him being raised by a loving, responsible, reliable adult."

Further, the Supreme Court long ago noted that a parent's right to "the companionship, care, custody and management of his or her children" is an interest "far more precious" than any property right. May v. Anderson, 345 U.S. 528, 533, 73 S.Ct. 840, 843 (1952).

And, in Lassiter v. Department of Social Services, 452 U.S. 18, 27, 102 S.Ct. 2153, 2159-60 (1981), the Court stressed that the parent-child relationship "is an important interest that 'undeniably warrants deference and, absent a powerful countervailing interest protection.'" quoting Stanley v. Illinois, 405 U.S. 645, 651, 92 S.Ct. 1208 (1972). The Court summarily announced the trend toward constitutional protection of the parent-child relationship in Carson v. Elrod, 411 F. Supp. 645, 649 (1976), stating "No bond is more precious and none should be more zealously protected by the law as the bond between parent and child."

Properly evaluated and properly quoted in future cases brought before **any** court involving a custody determination, these statements and the future extension by the high court in the Troxel case can be cited to justify more shared parenting (joint custody).

Oddenino

Raise Constitutional Arguments on the Trial Level

The quotes would have to be carefully used however, and they would be most useful in "clean" cases, that is, in which there are two fit parents. In such cases, courts would ordinarily have a difficult time in choosing **which** parent should obtain custody. The answer, of course, is that both parents (mom and dad) should share custody.

The high court's language could also be used to justify greater involvement by both parents in visitation cases.

Note that the thrust of the decisions appear to justify joint legal custody, but one could argue that greater time spent with a child will naturally include more decision making when the child is with that parent.

Also note that the high court does not explicitly endorse joint custody, and some of the reference are to "parent" as in "parent's decision." So don't assume that joint custody for **two** parents (which is growing in popularity) will suddenly be "easy" to get where it is not currently popular just because of the court's decision.

It will take more education and information to the courts as to why the comments in court cases really do mean joint custody.

These are the comments in the Troxel case we are referring to:

"the interests of the parents in the care, custody, and control of their children is the oldest of the fundamental liberty interests recognized by this Court" (majority opinion by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor);

"The Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment protects the fundamental right of parents to make decision concerning the care, custody, and control of their children";

'As a constitutionally protected liberty interest, the Due Process Clause does not permit a state to interfere with the right of parents to make childrearing decisions "simply because a state judge believes a 'better' decision could be made; so long as a parent adequately cares for his or her children (i.e., is fit) there will normally be no reason for the State to inject itself into the private realm of the family to further question the ability of that parent to make decisions concerning the rearing of that parent's children."

(Editor's note: under this reasoning, the state should automatically continue the shared parenting (joint custody) the parents would have had during a mar-

Continued on page 26

Future Implications

Continued from page 25

riage, unless there is reason for the state to interfere to protect a child).

Justice O'Connor cited precedence to support the Court's decision that established as a cardinal rule that "the custody, care and nurture of the child reside first in the parents, whose primary function and freedom include preparation for obligations the state can neither supply, nor hinder."

Parents have a fundamental right to make decisions that affect their children, and, acting under the traditional presumption that parents act in the best interests of their children, should be allowed to control the custodial arrangement following separation or divorce.

CRC General Counsel Michael L. Oddenino recommends that constitutional arguments should be raised at the trial level, in order to protect them for possible appeal.

For a copy of CRC's model joint custody brief, contact CRC. Free to members; $10 to non-members for P/H.

The Year 2000 is CRC's 15th Anniversary

We appreciate everyone who has worked for children and CRC. We thank all those who have enabled CRC to improve the lives of children and families. So many have given so much, of their time, efforts, and financial contributions.

For the year 2000, CRC has three new levels of support of CRC. They ares: .

* A PLATINUM LIFE MEMBER is one who donates $5,000 or more
* A GOLD LIFE MEMBER is one who donates $2,500 to $4,999.
* A SILVER LIFE MEMBER is one who donates $1,000 to $2,499.
* A LIFE MEMBER is one who donates CRC $500 to $999.

Anyone who has contributed to CRC in the past may increase the donation to reach any of the life member levels. If you are unsure about your previous donation level, contact CRC, and we would be glad to let you know. Thank you.

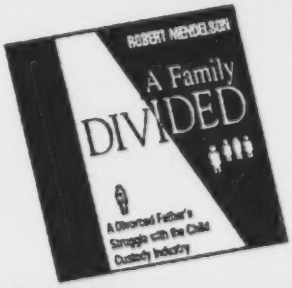
Call for Poetry from Divorced Parents!

Mark Roseman, CRC Connecticut coordinator, is editing a volume of poetry for publication next year. Send submissions to Mark at 48 Shepards Knoll Drive, Hamden, CT. 06514 or email him at LIBROS3@aol.com

THIS RIVETING EXPOSÉ REVEALS HOW JUDGES, ATTORNEYS, PSYCHIATRISTS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS VIOLATE LAW & ETHICS IN THEIR MISGUIDED ZEAL TO IDENTIFY A "PRIMARY PARENT"

One Divorced Father's Story

Every Father's and Child's Nightmare



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How to Purchase A FAMILY DIVIDED

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Young Americans Affected by Divorce Rate, Want Sex, No Weddings

Adapted from an article by Patrick Rizzo

(Reuters, June, 2000)—Romance and marriage are out while casual sex and low-commitment relationships are in among young Americans, researchers have found.

"Today's singles scene is not oriented toward marriage, nor is it dedicated to romantic love as it has been in the past," said David Popenoe, co-director of the National Marriage project and a sociology professor at Rutgers in New Jersey.

To be sure, young Americans today did not invent the concept of "free love," such as existed during the 1960's. The difference, researchers said, is that young people today are more concerned with economic and sexual self-gratification than past generations.

"They don't really have pictures in their minds that the road they are walking along leads to having a family," said Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, co-author of the report with Popenoe.

The study gathered together "focus groups" of unmarried men and women age 21 to 29, in five major metropolitan areas—northern New Jersey, Atlanta, Dallas, Chicago and Los Angeles.

Most of the participants had some education beyond high school but not college degrees. The study was part of the project's second annual report on the social health of marriage in the United States, "The State of Our Unions 2000."

Young people in America today, the study said, are more concerned with having fun and making money and less focused on forming lasting relationships that lead to marriage and raising a family.

The report took note that young Americans:

- favor living together as a try-out for marriage or as an alternative to marriage;
- have a fear of divorce;
- see marriage (and divorce) as a potential economic liability.

Oddly, however, most of the young men and women who participated in the study expected someday to meet and marry somebody who fulfilled their emotional and spiritual needs. The problem, researchers said, is that their current mercenary mating habits do not easily lead to the fulfillment of that goal.

High Incidence of Divorce Among their Parents

Whitehead said the men and women in the study, because of the high incidence of divorce among their parents, did not count on having lasting relationships with each other. Instead, they focused more on themselves.

"There is a self-protective kind of response to what they see as the high incidence of divorce," she said.

One result of all this, the study said, is that many more young women see single motherhood, which was once taboo, as a viable option.

Although many women in their late twenties had been looking for more commitment than the men in the study, they too have become more disenchanted with the pool of prospective partners and the likelihood of finding a mate. Nearly half of the women in the study said they considered unwed motherhood a socially acceptable option if they could not find and marry the right man by their late thirties.

"We may be seeing a massive change that would mean that romantic love and courtship might be giving way to something altogether new. Or we may be in a period of cultural cluelessness," Whitehead said.

"Most societies have had a script and young adults have been guided through that script. And now the script is being so radically revised that nobody knows what it is anymore. Or people have torn it up," Whitehead said.

Graham

National Child's Day—June 4

The U.S. Senate unanimously passed a resolution declaring the first Sunday in June, as "National Child's Day." National Children's Day is observed by many churches on the first Sunday in June. CRC and its chapters supported the observance on that date, which this year fell on June 4, because it was nestled between Mother's Day and Father's Day, where a Children's Day ought to be!

It is unclear whether President Clinton issued a proclamation urging Americans to celebrate Child's Day on the first Sunday in June.

In the Congressional Record, May 24, 2000 issue, Graham thanked CRC for its efforts in helping to convince the Senate to pass the resolution.

Mediation, Moveaway Help

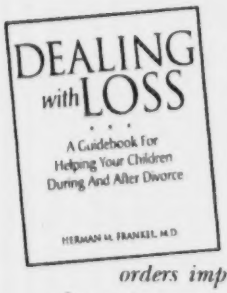
Leslee Newman, J.D., who has been giving free consultations on move-away issues to CRC members, is available for mediation consultations (at a fee). Leslee, who is a trained mediator, can be reached at 714-282-1515. Her husband Don Smith, Ph.D., clinical psychologist, is available for child custody evaluations. Don's number is 714-939-6678.

Don and Leslee are both in Orange County, California, but can handle cases anywhere in the country.

Dealing with Loss: Helping Your Children During and After Divorce

Dr. Herman Frankel, M.D.

Reviewed by CRC Staff



A 24-page guidebook. Individual copies $5 to Children's Rights Council at 300 I Street NE, Suite 401, Washington, DC 20002-4389. For information about quantity orders imprinted with the name of your program or agency, contact Dr. Frankel at Divorcework Center, 1800 SW First Avenue, Suite 510, Portland, OR 97201-5322.

Elizabeth Hickey, MSW, CRC's Director of Parenting Education, describes this as a "beautifully written booklet containing practical wisdom on how to help yourself and your children through the challenges of a family loss. I highly recommend it to parents, stepparents, and grandparents who are in the position of supporting children through change and loss."

Frankel

Dr. Frankel, M.D., Director of the Divorcework Center in Portland, Oregon and Adjunct Professor at Pacific University School of Professional Psychology, is a pediatrician whose work is devoted to protecting children from harm during and after divorce. Doctor Frankel's extensive experience with children, parents, and professionals led him to write this publication, The booklet was awarded the Children's Rights Council's "1999 Kids First Award of Excellence" after Dr. Frankel spoke at CRC's 12th national conference.

To a child, divorce may be as traumatic as losing a loved one. The loss experienced by the child leads to grief and mourning. Grieving a loss is a normal and healthy process, not a sign of illness. Children may experience such emotions as self-blame, withdrawal, anxiety, rage, loneliness, depression and more. They will experience a lack of familiarity and family stability due to the loss of ongoing contact with all of the family members.

Suddenly every-day routines will be changed and in many instances, the child might be placed in a new and unfamiliar neighborhood and school. Hence, their support base of friends is no longer near. As a result, parents may witness a decline in their child's academic performance as well. Although a trying experience, it is important to remember that children as well as adults have the capacity to recover from divorce and be able to create a new chapter in their lives.

Dr. Frankel guides us through the four categories of grief work done, repeatedly, by children (and parents) who deal effectively with the devastation of divorce and, in the process, become stronger, wiser, healthier, and more loving. He reminds us that divorce ends the marriage; it does not end the family.

He shows us how to support our children in their efforts to understand what they are losing, to experience and honor the emotions triggered by the loss, to live in the present as they take effective action to memorialize the losses and the life transition they have experienced, and to address, in their own ways, the question, "What really matters to me and to my family?"

It is also important that parents attend to their children's needs and remain dedicated to their healing process. One basic concept to remember is that when parents divorce, children want and need to accomplish these tasks in their own way and at their own pace. To guide parents in supporting their children's healing process during and after a divorce, Dr. Frankel goes on to offer thirty practical suggestions. The first 10 of them are:

1. Remember that your child is not your parent. Do not look to your children to fill that loss and need for nurturing, but rather, remember that you must continue to nurture them.
2. Remember that your child is not your partner.
3. Remember that your child is not your friend. When you need someone to talk to, and your partner is no longer there, remember that you are the parent not the pal, and do not overlap these roles.
4. Remember that your child is not your representative. Your attorney can help you maintain appropriate communication. Do not use your child as a messenger.
5. Take the initiative. Tell your children what is happening.
6. Decide on the purpose of the conversation. Tell your children what they need to know, ask if they have any questions, ensure them that it is not their fault and of your continued love for them.
7. Decide on the structure of the "telling the children" conversation. Keep the conversation preferable short, but slow. After the conversation, transition to an activity other than bedtime.
8. Expect to answer the children's questions repeatedly, on their schedule. Children grieve and re-grieve.
9. When you don't know, say, "I don't know."
10. Make sure the children understand that their actions will not affect the permanence of the divorce.

Talking Back to Ritalin
What Doctors Aren't Telling You about Stimulants for Children

Peter R. Breggin, M.D.,
Available from CRC

Reviewed by CRC Staff

400 pages, hardback, $25, website: http://www.agate.net~comcour e-mail: comcourl@agate.net

Breggin

CRC is reporting on this subject because many parents get "pushed away" and "forced away" from their children during the divorce process, so they are unable to provide the "on site" parenting that might provide alternatives other than drugs for their children. Dr. Breggin was a speaker at CRC's 12th national conference in September, 1999

Studies show that the use of stimulants such as Ritalin and antidepressants are on the rise among toddlers. According to a study from the University of Maryland, School of Pharmacy, as many as 1.5 percent of children age 2 to 4 are receiving these drugs. The doctors are finding a quick and easy solution for a much deeper issue. In the February 23, 2000 issue of The Washington Post, Joseph T. Coyle of the Harvard Medical School in Boston sharply criticized the growing use of stimulants and antidepressant drugs in preschool-age children. This age "is a time of extraordinary, unprecedented changes in the brain... We have very little information about the long-term impact of treatment with these drugs."

Breggin's book demonstrates the negative effects of Ritalin on toddlers. His book highlights why the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is worried about the number of children taking Ritalin, the negative side effects of Ritalin, how children feel about Ritalin, and the empowerment of parents in relationships with children.

The DEA has issued warnings about the rates of Ritalin prescriptions in this country. Questioning the tactics of Ritalin's manufacturer, the DEA raises concern over the safety and efficacy of the drug. The DEA (1996) has made it clear that there is no known biological cause for Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

The DEA also warns that Ritalin use "may be a risk factor for substance abuse" and "further provides a comprehensive list of adverse effects".

Without any actual physical test being able to detect the supposed existence of ADHD, three basic categories are used to diagnose ADHD. The characteristics of a suspected ADHD child are hyperactivity, impulsivity, and attention problems.

According to Dr. Breggin, many of these same children are accused of daydreaming in class, keeping a messy desk, being excessively jittery or jumpy, trouble listening and complying to adult expectations. How many of us suffered from these ailments as children? While extreme cases of rambunctious children in the classroom do exist, Ritalin should not be used as an easy solution to a more complex issue.

When questioned as to the harmful effects of Ritalin, a leading advocate of Ritalin has made the comment that other than "headaches, sleepiness in some people, lack of desire to eat," all other adverse effects are "remote". Dr. Breggin on the other hand emphasizes Ritalin's adverse effects on the brain, behavior, and mental life. Other side effects include: "subtle social withdrawal; dulled affect, emotional blunting; cognitive 'overfocusing'; mild to moderate depression in children." These are devastating side effects that none of us should wish to subject our children to.

Children, just like adults, have stressors in their lives. Such stressors might include such things as the death of a pet, arguments or separation of their parents, conflict with teachers, unsafe neighborhoods, poverty and more. In order to fix a problem, one must first realize what the problem is. There is no proof that Ritalin cures ADHD, as may have long-term negative side effects.

For more information on Dr. Breggin's work go to **www.breggin.com** and **www.icspp.org**

National Cry for Children

Rally Saturday, November 4 at the Lincoln Memorial. Contact organizer Brad Ingram at mvacon5@juno.com

Like last year's Cry for Children rally, this year's events, says Ingram, will again emphasize that "entire generations are growing up not knowing the importance of families. They are learning that two cars in the garage is more important than two parents in the home. This is not a fathers rights rally. This is a family rally."

David L. Levy is among those invited to speak at the rally.

National Affiliate Organizations and Chapters

CRC International Chapters

CRC of Great Britain
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email: tonyc@equalparenting.org
website: www.equalparenting.org

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540/637-3576
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and
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Fall 2000/Winter 2001

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Strengthening Families Through Education And Advocacy

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Assisting Children of Never-Married, Separated and Divorced Parents

SPEAK OUT FOR CHILDREN®

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Children's Rights Council, Inc.
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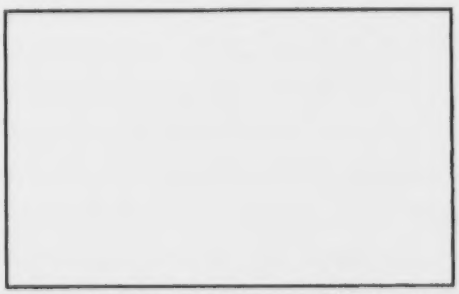
New Laws Benefit Tennessee Children

Six new laws in Tennessee will change the face and nature of divorce in The Volunteer State, say observers of the new legislation.

The new laws:

1. Replace the terms "custody" and "visitation" with "shared parenting" and "parental responsibilities." Divorcing parents can participate in mediation and produce parenting plans;

2. Provide that blocking court-ordered parenting time will result in loss of recreational, professional, and/or business licenses. Because of budget problems, drivers' licenses were excluded, but efforts will be made to add them in the future. (Note: Idaho and Iowa already have laws that result in loss of licenses for interference with access);



(l to r) Dominick Amari, David Courson and Don Peery (pro se expert) of CRC of Tennessee, Coni Herinkova and Ernie Weeks of DAD of Tennessee

3. Grandparents rights. Though narrowly defined, supporters believe the law will survive the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the *Troxel* case (see Summer, 1999 "Speak Out for Children.");

4. Guarantee the right of noncustodial parents access to medical records of the child, unless forbidden by the courts;

5. Expand Parent Bill of Rights—adds three new

Continued on page 4

Please Plan on Attending CRC's 13th National Conference

Holiday Inn Bethesda
(inside the Beltway)

May 4-6, 2001

Reception at the British Embassy Residence and Gardens to Benefit CRC May 3, the evening before the conference

Register on Website at gocrc.com or on page 11 of this newsletter.

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The CRC

The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a nation-wide, non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) children's rights organization based in Washington, D.C.

Mission

- The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a national, non-profit organization committed to the loving, nurturing, protecting and education of children through both parents and extended family.
- CRC is dedicated to helping children by promoting family formation, shared parenting, mediation, parent education, and mitigating the effects of divorce and relationship breakups on children and parents.

Vision

- CRC's vision is a society where both parents play a significant parenting role in their children's lives. Children need grandparents, step-parents and others who are part of the family fabric, working as a team.
- CRC envisions a society where laws, attitudes, and public opinion affirm that for children, **"The Best Parent is Both Parents."**

Formed in 1985 by concerned parents who had more than 40 years collective experience in custody reform and early childhood education, CRC has chapters in 32 states and four national affiliate organizations: Mothers Without Custody, (MW/OC), The Stepfamily Association of America (SAA), CO-MAMAS, and Parenting Coalition International, Inc.

Prominent professionals in the fields of religion, law, social work, psychology, child care, education, business, and government comprise our Advisory Panel.

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CRC has two websites: **www.gocrc.com** (our main CRC site) and **www.info4parents.com** for expanded parenting information).

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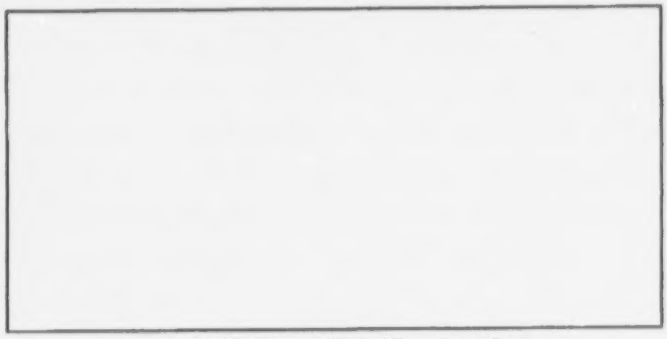
CRC of Sierra Leone Helps Distressed Children

One of the children helped by CRC of Sierra Leone



Members and Supporters of CRC of Sierra Leone chapter

One of the children helped by CRC of Sierra Leone

CRC's new Sierra Leone chapter works to relieve the suffering of children in war-torn Sierra Leone.

"Sierra Leone has been ravaged by one of the most brutal rebel wars ever known to mankind," said Yottro Kargbo, director of the chapter, who lives in the U.S. "The health and educational system is in complete disarray. Simple diseases result in swift deaths for unfortunate Sierra Leoneans, especially children, who are the most vulnerable and yet innocent about the conflict."

Families have been separated from their loved ones, made homeless, sexually abused, mutilated or otherwise traumatized. There are an estimated five thousand amputees, most of them children as young as three years old. Many have been forced to be "child soldiers" who fight alongside adult combatants.

Children in this West African country near Liberia and Guinea are found scavenging the streets looking for food, clothing or anything else they can find.

The chapter, consisting of concerned Sierra Leoneans, has been meeting in metropolitan Washington, D.C., for nearly a year. The group has held fundraisers and obtained contributions from members and non-members.

The chapter is sending a two-man delegation to Sierra Leone in January 2001 to help with human relief. They will provide money, food, clothing and educational materials to help some of the children in refugee camps that have been set up around the country.

A church service was held for nine amputees from Sierra Leone, most of them children, at the Bread of the Life Church in Alexandria, Virginia, September 24, 2000. CRC of Sierra Leone donated $500 to help with medical bills for these amputees.

"This is the tip of the iceberg of things that need to be done," said Kargbo. "CRC of Sierra Leone is doing its best, but needs further help for the children."

For more information, contact CRC of Sierra Leone, P.O. Box 13057, Alexandria, VA 22313, or visit their web site at www.geocities.com/crcsl The chapter's phone number is 703/897-7845.

Haskins Moves to Brookings

Ron Haskins, the longtime staff director for the House Human Resources Subcommittee, has left to work for the Brookings Institute, a think tank in Washington, D.C. At a retirement party in the House, former subcommittee chairman Clay Shaw (R-FL) referred to Haskins as "Mr. Chairman" because of Haskins' knowledge and insights into the Welfare Reform law, which came out of that Subcommittee. Haskins was also on top of child support and access (visitation) measures, which also originated in that subcommittee. Haskins has been a good friend to advocates for the 2-parent family, and shall be missed on the Hill. A new staff director is to be named. The subcommittee can be reached at 202-225-1025.

CRC and our chapters need grant and proposal writers.

Important Phone Number

The phone number for the Congressional switchboard, which will reach all offices and committees, is (202) 225-3121.

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New Laws

Continued from page 1

rights, including 48 hour notification of any events to which parents are normally invited to participate, noncustodial parent involvement in all school activities including lunch with child, and contact information when either parent leaves the state for two or more nights with the minor child;

6. Create a Tennessee Commission on Responsible Fatherhood, to make recommendations to the legislature for future legislation. DAD of Tennessee, one of the groups responsible for the new legislation, has a seat on the commission.

Credit for this legislation goes to DAD of Tennessee; a group called First Things First; CRC's Tennessee chapter; Judge Don Ash; Judge Marietta Shipley; Dr. Karen Sowers, dean of the College of Social Work, University of Tennessee in Knoxville; State Rep. Bob Patton (R-Johnson City), chairman of the joint legislative committee that studies all proposed divorce laws.

All six bills came out of that study committee, said Coni Herinkova, executive director of DAD of Tennessee. Coni is an attorney, paid by DAD of Tennessee to promote favorable legislation. Scott Roy is president of the group, which has a 16-person board.

CRC of Tennessee is headed by David Courson, whose organization worked to educate the legislature about the needs of children and families.

See the legislation at www.legislature.state.tn.us

Change of Address

To keep newsletters and other materials coming, please notify CRC three weeks in advance of any address change. Send old and new addresses to CRC, 300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, DC 20002.

Inside CRC

Stabenow Elected to U.S. Senate

Congratulations to longtime CRC Advisor Debbie Stabenow (D) for winning a seat in the U.S. Senate. She defeated first term senator Spencer Abraham (R) in November, 2000.

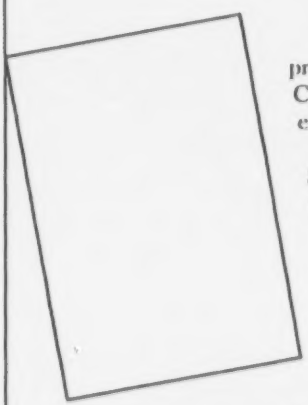
Debbie came to our attention shortly after we formed CRC in 1985 as the prime author of the provision in Michigan's "Friend of the Court" law that expanded resources so that staff could informally resolve access (visitation) complaints, not just child support problems.

In 1988, Congress provided, at CRC's urging, seven access (visitation) demonstration grants to the states. The single most influential argument to sway Congress was learning that Michigan collected $8.33 for every dollar spent to collect – the best ratio of any state's collections to costs in the U.S.

Debbie Stabenow sent CRC a letter, which we used to educate Congress about this ratio, and the need to provide for more access of children to noncustodial parents.

Debbie went on to become a member of the House of Representatives, and now she is in the Senate.

Levy Honored



The U.S. Office of Child Support Enforcement presented a "Lifelong Achievement Award" to CRC President David L. Levy for his "untiring efforts on behalf of the children of America."

The award was presented to Levy by Child Support Commissioner David Gray Ross at a Child Support Conference in Baltimore in September, 2000.

Ross said Levy was the father of the access (visitation) grants to the states authorized for the first time by Congress in 1988.

Ross referred to the various other programs, services, and educational materials CRC has provided since its inception in 1985 to help children.

Levy accepted the lovely all-glass plaque on behalf of the Children's Rights Council, and CRC supporters all around the country. "Without them," he said, "none of the progress CRC has made for children would have been possible."

3 CRC Folk Recuperating

Two state coordinators of CRC, David Courson of Tennessee, and Gary Maxwell of Alaska, are successfully recovering from heart attacks. Bruce G. Buffington, husband of CRC Texas coordinator Diana Buffington, is also recovering from a heart attack.

We are sure they would appreciate "Good Wishes" notes from any of you. Information on how to reach them are on the page listing all of our chapters (page 30).

Thank you for taking the time to wish them well.

CRC Establishes College Scholarship Fund

Banner

College Scholarship Fund Set for Relatives of CRC Members

In November 2000, CRC mailed its annual Holiday Appeal for Funds to present and some former members. We said:

Frank Banner's son Frank Banner III turned 13 on September 9, 2000, but his dad could not wish him Happy Birthday. That's because young Frank was one of 160,000 children kidnapped by a parent each year.

Was Mr. Banner an abusive or neglectful parent? Hardly. He is a deputy U.S. marshall, and has raised 6 other children just fine.

On October 23, Mr. Banner received the worst news a parent can hear. One of his daughters, 31-year-old Loretta Mae, was murdered. The killer was caught. The funeral was delayed until one of Mr. Banner's sons, Kiley, could return home from the U.S. military in Korea.

I have never begun our annual Holiday appeal with news this sad. But I felt I had no choice.

You see, Mr. Banner is the head of CRC's Washington, D.C. chapter. He operates a transfer center for children and offers weekly parenting education classes. He also runs other programs, including programs in the African-American community. He has done so at personal and financial sacrifice. He deserves our support.

CRC does not wish to make anything from this tragedy. This is why we ask you to designate how much of your Holiday contribution you want to go to CRC, and how much you would like to designate to the Frank Banner III College Scholarship Fund. The fund administrator will be Patton, Erskine and Braucht, the CPA firm that manages CRC funds. Each Spring CRC will offer a scholarship to the child of a CRC member. All may apply. Mr. Banner will chair the Selection Committee.

Thank you for your continuing support for CRC, and for children everywhere, like Frank Banner III.

Sincerely yours,
David L. Levy, J.D.
President, CRC

If anyone would like to contribute to the Holiday Fund and/or to the College Scholarship Fund, please do so. Fax your donation by credit card to CRC at 202-546-4272, or mail to CRC. Thank you.

Amicus Briefs May be Available

If your case is on appeal, and you would like CRC to consider writing an amicus brief, contact CRC. CRC cannot handle cases at the trial level, and we do not write the main appeal brief. An amicus brief is a supplemental brief, telling the court why this case is of significance not only to the parties in the case, but to other children and families as well. We generally need 30 to 60 days before the filing deadline.

CRC's latest amicus filing was in December, 2000 to the U.S. Supreme Court in Goldhamer v. Cohen, asking the court to take certiorari to consider expanded visitation between a child and the non-custodial parent. For a copy, including case citations, send $10 to CRC for S/H.

Scholarship Application

CRC will award at least one $350 scholarship in the Frank Banner III Scholarship Fund in 2001, depending on contributions.

The rules for applying follow:

The child should write no more than a two to three page letter to CRC (letters more than three pages long will not be read).

The letter should state the following:

1. Your name, address, telephone number and today's date at the top of the letter;
2. The name and location of your high school;
3. What college you plan on attending in the Fall of 2001 or Spring, 2002;
4. Your relationship (child, grandchild, other family member) to the member of national CRC. If unsure as to whether national membership is current, you or the adult can contact CRC;
5. Explain any struggle you had to overcome, what you learned from it, and how you will apply it to your college life;
6. Tell us about yourself, your plans, your accomplishments, and why you would like to receive this scholarship;
7. Sign the letter;

Attach unofficial transcripts and any other document, not to exceed three pages.

Letters of recommendation from the CRC member and one other person, such as a counselor or teacher.

Letters should be addressed to:

Mr. Frank Banner Jr.
Children's Rights Council
College Scholarship Fund
300 "I" Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Letters must be received by May 15. Recipient(s) will be notified by June 10.

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The CRC View

by David L. Levy, J.D.
President, CRC

Levy

Married Parents Would Revolt if Government Interfered in Access to their Children

CRC frequently receives inquiries from parents for help in their custody or access situations. We provide information, resources and referrals.

When people call CRC, they sometimes express wonder why they have to battle just to maintain a relationship with their child. We agree—you shouldn't have to. CRC encourages settlements, compromises, mediation and agreements. This is difficult, we know, but sometimes the alternative, going to court, is worse. Parents frequently find a way to disregard court orders, if they don't agree with them. Agreements reached between parents often have more validity and are more lasting if not coerced.

In marriage, parents would rise up in arms if the government made them prove their fitness to be parents. "What do you mean I can only see my child on alternate weekends Friday evening to Sunday evening?" a married parent would ask, incredulous. "No court has the right to restrict me like that!"

There would be marching in the street, protests at courthouses, and angry letters to the editor, if the government acted that way. The government invade the sanctity of marriage? No way.

Indeed, government does not get involved in child-parent relationships during marriage, absent a real or alleged showing of abuse or neglect to the child.

Thus the typical married parent doesn't think twice about the opportunity to be with his or her child for breakfast, dinner, weekends, or whenever else child and parents come and go in the home.

In divorce, it is Humpty Dumpty-time, and everything takes a big fall. The government assumes it has the right to determine family relationships, including when and where you may see your child and your child may see you.

About half of families with children avoid this government interference by not going to court. Most of them are never-married, but some are separated or divorced. These parents do not apply for custody, court ordered financial support, or access. They work out financial and access arrangements informally, or not at all.

It is the duty of every parent to support his or her child emotionally and financially, and this should be the goal. But how best to bring it about? Shared parenting is the best approach to bring about both monetary and parenting involvement, says U.S. Census Bureau data.

And then there is personal experience. CRC knows of state legislators who never supported a shared parenting bill or a mediation bill—they thought it a remote topic.

But then they got divorced. And suddenly, as it is said, "they got religion." They experience first hand the horror and harm to children of custody battling, which enriches my fellow attorneys, but often imperils the family—emotionally as well as psychologically.

Celebrities are not exempt. I recently heard entertainer Joe Piscopo, who had a custody battle over his son Joey, say he is an advocate for a strong joint custody bill pending in the New Jersey legislature. Piscopo, who lives in New Jersey, described the proposal as a "Children's Bill of Rights."

How right you are, Joe.

Ernest Hemingway said that the purpose of life is to survive, and achieve your goals. Surviving a custody or access battle is a tall order for most parents. But surviving in order to maintain a loving relationship with your child is the goal.

Many parents achieve it. Many do not. They are wiped out psychologically and/or financially from the fighting.

We urge them to stay and try to be a parent, anyway.

We know it can be difficult.

But some progress has been made in recent years. Legislators and the public have come to better understand that children raised with two parents have a better chance in life, regardless of the parents' marital status.

The road is not easy, but we must persevere. And someday, perhaps government will not try to dictate your relationship with your child post-divorce unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Let parents work out their own parenting arrangement—with resources available to them, including mediation, parenting classes, and parenting plans—with government not otherwise involved except in cases of abuse, neglect, abandonment, or parental kidnapping.

To change from a win-lose situation to a win-win situation, parents need the support and help of judges, lawyers, legislators, and mental health professionals.

When parents are led away from the adversarial system, towards resources such as mediation, parenting education, and parenting plans, it has been shown time and again that they can learn cooperation. You can lead parents to the waters of cooperation and expect refreshing results.

That's important if we want to raise children to be the happy, healthy adults they were meant to be.

Once Again — Census Report Shows Connection between Support and Joint Custody

A Census Bureau report released in October 2000 has found strong links between shared parenting and financial child support.

83 percent of custodial parents with joint (legal) custody and visitation arrangements received some or all of the child support they were due. In contrast, among parents with neither joint custody nor visitation, only 36 percent of custodial parents received any payments.

This important connection between shared parenting and financial child support was reported in *The Washington Times*, October 13, 2000, but in almost no other media.

The Census Bureau report states that of the 14.0 million custodial parents in 1996, 7.5 million (54.3 percent) had some type of support agreement or award for their children. When 6.6 million custodial parents without agreement or with non-legal, informal agreements were asked why they did not have a legal agreement, the most frequently given reasons was "they did not feel the need to get legal and go to court" (32.4 percent).

Other reasons include that they felt the other parent could not afford to pay or that the other provided what they could for support (about 23 percent each).

For a full listing of reasons given, see "Family Facts" elsewhere in this newsletter.

The report was based on 1997 data.

Other Findings

- About 59.5 percent of custodial mothers and 38.2 percent of custodial fathers had child support agreed to or awarded to them. Awards rates were highest (about two-thirds) for custodial mothers who were either divorced, non-Hispanic White, or had at least some college education.
- More parents are receiving the child support they are due, but the total number of parents who received no payments stayed about the same.
- 41 percent of some 7 million custodial parents who were owned support received all they were due. This is significantly more than in 1995, when 34 percent of parents said they were paid in full. However, the data show a decline in partial payments - only 27 percent of custodial parents received some of their child support payments, compared with 35 percent in 1993. Altogether, this meant that in 1997, around 68 percent of custodial parents got at least some child support, while 32 percent of parents got nothing.

This payment rate is virtually the same as in 1993, when 69 percent of parents received some support and 31 percent did not, the Census Bureau said.

It further noted that the average amount of child support received by custodial parents—$3,500 a year in 1997—was also unchanged from 1993.

The 1996 Welfare Reform law passed by Congress included sweeping child support reforms, such as creation of a national database to track and gather payments from parents and requiring states to put liens on property, cancel passports, and revoke automobile, professional, and hunting and fishing licenses.

Those laws impact doesn't appear in the 1997 data—"It is sort of a cusp year," said Michael Kharfen, spokesman for the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement.

Significant increases will be seen later, he said, noting that state data from 1998 and 1999 already have picked up higher rates of paternity establishment and collections.

Confirmation of Connection between Joint Custody and Support

Note: This 1997 Census Bureau data supports an earlier 1991 Census Bureau report that showed "A higher percentage of fathers with joint custody pay the child support due (90.2 percent) than fathers who have visitation privileges (79.1 percent) or those without visitation or joint custody (44.5 percent).

Confirmation that Many Fathers are Unable to Pay

Further note: This report also substantiates a federal government report issued in 1992 that said 66 percent of mothers **with a child support award** who did not receive payment from the father said it is because the fathers were unable to pay. The 66 percent figure was reported by the custodial mothers regardless of whether the fathers lived in the same state or in a different state from the mother. The 1992 report was issued by the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), report GAO/HRD-92-39 Mothers Report Receiving...

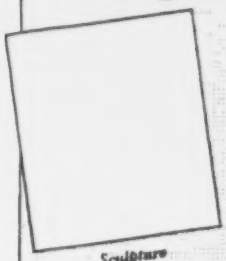
Several years after the GAO report was released, a federal official claimed that the report should have said 66 percent of parents were "unwilling" to pay rather than were "unable to pay."

Aside from the several year delay in that official's "discovery" of supposed federal error, this new Census Bureau report appears to buttress the earlier GAO finding that many mothers regard fathers as "unable to pay."

Another substantiation of inability to pay is the strong effort being made in the past years to reach out to young, never-married parents, to offer them jobs and job training. This effort is being led by the federal child support office, various foundations, and the National Center for Strategic Non-Profit Planning and Community Leadership (NPCL), which is funded by the Ford and Mott Foundations.

CRC General Counsel Michael L. Oddenino's email address is kidfirst@msn.com His website is www.oanglaw.com

Original Sculpture to be Raffled



Sculpture

A fine sculpture depicting a young man, his belongings slung over his shoulders in a sack upon landing at Ellis Island, has been donated to CRC by internationally known sculptor Philip Ratner.

The sculpture, valued at $3,000, is made from the original materials of the statue of Liberty which were replaced during the structural modifications in the 1980's. The sculpture is a limited edition collectible.

CRC is raffling this sculpture and will issue only 1,000 tickets. The tickets are available for $3, three for $8, or 24 for $59.

The drawing for the raffle will be CRC's 13th national conference banquet, Thursday evening, May 4. You do not have to be present to win.

"Not only are the Ellis Island sculptures beautiful, but they increase in value over the years as well," said Rabbi Mendel Abrams, a CRC advisor, who owns a number of the sculptures.

Ellis Island, in New York Harbor, was extensively restored in the '80's. As part of the renovation, a park on the island was created to memorialize the immigrants who came to the United States. A number of four-foot high sculptures by Philip Ratner are on permanent exhibit.

Young Man with a Sack is a replica of one of these.

Raffle Ticket

Value $3,000. Send me _____ tickets at $3 each, 3 for $8, or 24 for $60

Charge: ☐ MC ☐ Visa ☐ AmEX

CC: _____ Exp. date _____

Or amount enclosed _____

Name _____

Address _____

_____

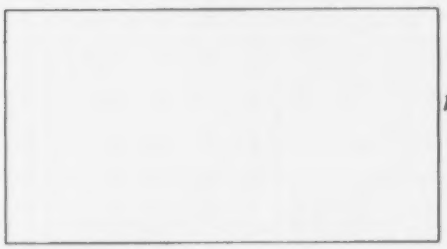
Phone No _____

Fill out form above, and mail to CRC at 300 "I" St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002 or fax to CRC at 202/547-6227.

Tickets will be mailed to you. You need not be present to win at drawing May 4, 2000.

CRC People Highlighted

Rick Kuhn



(l to r) Rick, and his children Christine, Kevin and Gary.

Rick Kuhn has helped enormously to trouble shoot computer programs, and to upgrade our main website, at gocrc.com

Rick is also a CRC evaluator of research, and finds important information on joint custody and access (visitation) that we periodically share with our readers in this newsletter.

Seven years ago, Rick received helpful information from John Bauserman, Sr., CRC's ace researcher on joint custody (shared parenting). Shortly after that, Rick volunteered to help CRC with statistics and computer work, and set up a website for the Maryland chapter.

Rick has three children, who keep him busy. He also serves as a den leader for his sons' cubscout pack.

"Rick is an excellent researcher, always accessible, and never says 'no' when it comes to helping CRC," said CRC President David L. Levy. "He is one of those terrific individuals a group comes to rely on very heavily."

CRC Needs

- Free or reduced-fee office space. Get a tax write-off as you help kids and CRC. 1,200 square feet or more anywhere in the Washington, D.C. area (Maryland, D.C. or Virginia).
- A new photocopy machine.
- Volunteers to help with filing, phone calls, and writing letters.
- Our chapters need computers.
- Lawyers to write CRC Amicus Briefs on appeal.

Our chapters around the country could use office space, photocopiers, and volunteers, too!

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Upcoming Event

Stepfamily Association of America

The National Conference on Stepfamilies, sponsored by the Stepfamily Association of Americaa, will be held at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel, Feb. 22-24, 2001, a few days before Mardi Gras. SAA is a national affiliate orgaqization of CRC. This promises to be SAA's biggest conference ever. Speakers include Constance Ahrons, Margorie Engel, E. Mavis Hetherington, Wade Horn, David L. Levy, Neil Tift, and Emily and John Visher. Registration $349, phone 617/469-6789, or email PIRIDC@mail.com Hotel rooms $209, phone 1-800-228-9290, mention SAA conference.

Beat the Tax Man: Contribute to CRC

Keep working for children. If you wish to consider leaving a bequest or property to CRC, please state the following in your will: "I hereby leave the following to the Children's Rights Council: ___(state your bequest)___."

Around the Country

Virginia Group to Implement Required Parenting Education

Steinberg

Works to Implement Parenting Education

A group called the Parent Education Network (PEN) has been established in Virginia to assure compliance with a family-oriented parenting education law (see Summer 2000 "Speak Out for Children).

The law requires all parents involved in custody or visitation (access) disputes to attend parent education seminars in the state of Virginia. The law takes effect July 1, 2001.

The Parent Education Network will teach the effects of divorce on children, present alternative ways to resolve conflict resolution than litigation, including mediation, and alternative parenting arrangements.

Murray Steinberg, head of the Family Resolution Council in Richmond, Virginia, an affiliate of CRC, led the long effort to get Virginia to require parenting education for all divorcing parents.

Steinberg said the network is important to make sure that the law is implemented.

He said that the model curriculum for the course was established by a Virginia Supreme Court committee. The curriculum states that one purpose of the course is "to encourage positive involvement of both parents in the lives of their children."

Steinberg is treasurer of the organization. Others are parent educators throughout Virginia. The president of the organization is Ann Warshauer, a parent education/mediator in Falls Church, VA.

For those who wish to obtain a copy of the curriculum, phone 804-786-6984, and ask for House Document No. 26, 2000, which is the "Model Parent Education Curriculum and a Study of Related Custody and Visitation Issues."

Steinberg may be contacted at family@richmond.net, or by phone at 1-804-559-7090.

West Virginia Encourages Two-Parent Families

Starting in July, 2000, the state of West Virginia started increasing the marriage incentive payment made to cash assistance recipients. The cash assistance program in West Virginia is known as WV WORKS.

In 1996, the State Legislature passed welfare reform legislation that provided for a 10 percent increase in the cash assistance check a family receives when that family includes a man and a woman legally married to each other and there are dependent children of one or both. One of the main purposes of welfare reform is to encourage the formation and stability of two-parent families who receive public assistance.

To further encourage this goal, the legislature increased the marriage incentive payment from 10 percent of the calculated cash assistance benefit to a flat $100 a month payment, added to the regular monthly benefit amount.

For example, the current maximum cash assistance benefit for a family of four is $412 per month. If the family includes a man and woman legally married to each other, they will receive an additional $100, for a total monthly cash assistance payment of $512. Prior to July, 2000, the family would receive a marriage incentive of only $41.

"The Legislature recognized that a key to helping families on cash assistance achieve self-sufficiency is to have both parents in the home, providing a stable environment. This increased marriage incentive was designed with this intent," said a press release from the Office of Family Support within the WV Department of Health and Human Services.

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Shared Parenting — It Makes Sense

Theme for CRC's 13th National Conference May 4-6, 2001

Catherine Meyer, author of "They Are My Children, Too," Honorary President of the Children's Rights Council, and wife of the British Ambassador to the U.S., announces CRC will hold its 13th national conference, May 4-6, 2001, at the Holiday Inn, Bethesda, Maryland, adjacent of Washington, D.C. Lady Meyer announced that Mark Roseman, CRC Connecticut coordinator, who has 8 years experience in conference management, will be conference coordinator. Barbara Steinberg, Ph.D., is coordinating the faculty of presenters.

"This three day conference is multidisciplinary and will focus on parenting for children of never-married, separated and divorced parents, as well as national and international kidnapping of children," says Meyer.

Conference seminars will be available for parents of kidnapped children, experts in The Abuse Excuse, educators, therapists, psychologists, mediators, faith-based community, lawyers, government officials, access (visitation) staff, attorneys and child advocates.

Call the Holiday Inn at 1-877-888-3001 for hotel registration, $99 a night; mention CRC conference.

Earlybird conference registration to April 15, $275 for CRC members; $325 for non-members. After that, add additional $40 for registration. Phone 202-547-6227, or register online at www.gocrc.com. Student/Scholarship Rate $190.

All rates include six meals – 3 continental breakfasts (Friday, Saturday, Sunday), two lunches (Friday, Saturday), and banquet Friday evening.

CEU's are available through American Psychological Assn. and the Family Therapy Institute, Rockville, MD. CLE's are available for attorneys through the American Bar Association and state bar associations.

(r to l) CRC Honorary President Catherine Meyer; Willie Lewis, a friend of Lady Meyer, who is assisting with the benefit reception May 3; conference coordinator Mark Roseman, and CRC President David L. Levy, gather at the Embassy to discuss plans.

Awards Time Again

At the 2001 conference, CRC will present Chief Justice Warren E. Burger awards for "Healers" among judges, lawyers, and others; Best in Media Awards; and Active Parenting Awards. CRC has presented such awards at past conferences. These coveted awards provide national recognition for the winners, and an engraved plaque and other citations. More than one award may be given in each category. Only current members of national CRC may submit an application. If unsure whether your membership is current, contact CRC office in Washington, D.C.

Healer Awards

The Healer Awards are named in honor of Warren E. Burger, the late Chief Justice of the United States. When he was Chief Justice, Burger urged lawyers to be "healers," not just "litigators."

A "Healer" might be

- a judge who takes the lead in promoting joint custody (shared parenting);
- an attorney with a professional track record of promoting a child's access to two parents and others who have bonded with the child.

Best in Media Awards

Possible contenders are:

- best treatment of children and parents of divorce in the news media (including newspapers, magazines, TV and radio coverage);
- best media coverage of a county agency that provides programs for teenage parents;

Active Parenting

Possible contenders are:

- programs that help with family formation and family preservation;
- programs that help parents do better parenting in the event of divorce.

Both you and the nominee will be expected to attend the CRC conference, where you will present the award to the winner on behalf of CRC at the banquet Thursday evening, May 4, 2000.

Enclose each nomination with a one or two page letter explaing why the nominee should be selected, together with a sample of the nominee's work. In all cases, the CRC chapter in your state (if there is a chapter) must support the nomination. See list of chapters in this newsletter. If no chapter, the nomination must be supported by at least one other member (beside yourself) of national CRC. If unsure whether your national membership is current, contact CRC.

Send all nominations and supporting documents to:

Mark Roseman,
CRC Conference Coordinator
48 Shepards Knoll Drive
Hamden, CT 06514
phone: 203/288-7827
fax: 203/281-1425
email: LIBROS3@aol.com

Do not send nominations to the CRC office; that will only delay the process. Send them to Mark Roseman. Thank you.

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Come to the Children's Rights Council 13th National Conference May 4-6, 2001

Holiday Inn Hotel
Bethesda, Maryland

Shared Parenting — It Makes Sense

"CRC conferences are fantastic! High energy, lots of ideas, terrific networking, the latest information on children and families to energize you and your colleagues back home."
—Margaret Wuwert, Ohio, grandmother, attended 4 conferences

"The quality of speakers and information offered at CRC conferences is the best bang for the buck I have ever seen — and I attend many conferences!"
—David Arnaudo, former administrator, federal access (visitation) grants to the states, Child Support Office, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Conference

More than 30 conference seminars for parents, child advocates, stepparents, grandparents, social workers, pediatricians, educators, experts in The Abuse Excuse, therapists, pyschologists, mediators, faith-based community, government officials, access (visitation) experts, and attorneys.

Registration	$275 (CRC member)	
	325 (non-member)	
	190 (student/scholarship rate)	
Day Rate (Fri, Sat or Sun)		100
CEUs (APA)___ or CLEs ___		10

All rates include 6 meals — Continental breakfast Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; two lunches Friday and Saturday; and Banquet Friday evening.

Gala Benefit Reception

Benefit for Children's Rights Council at the British Ambassador's Residence, 3100 Massachusetts Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. (adjacent to the Vice-President's Home). CRC is requesting from $500 to $5,000 per ticket. Free transportation from hotel to the Embassy.

Thursday evening, May 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. (the evening before the CRC Conference).

For CRC Members	$100 (2 for $195).
Additional tax-deductible contribution	$ ____
Total enclosed	$ ____

Membership in CRC is $35 per year.

Note: Please consider an additional contribution to help make this conference and the Gala Fundraiser Reception a success. Thank you.

All contributions to CRC are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Your name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Enclosed is _____ per registrant. I enclose check, money order, or charge my Visa ___ MC ___ or AMEX _____

Account No _____ Exp. date _____

_____ I can't attend but wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to the success of the events.

Make Your Own Hotel Reservation by April 10. Call Holiday Inn Bethesda, Maryland at 1-877-888-3001, $99 a night; mention CRC conference. Shuttle service between airports; subway connection from National Airport.

Co-Mamas Affiliates with CRC

Lynne Oxhorn-Ringwood
The Ex-Wife

Louise Oxhorn
The Second Wife

Dr. Marjorie Krausz
Psychologist and Stepmother

Co-Mamas. What an interesting name! Louise Oxhorn and Lynne Oxhorn-Ringwood barely knew each other when they found themselves part of a new step-family. Louise had married Lynne's ex-husband. These two women had something important in common, raising Lynne's 5 year old son Evan. And like many ex-wives and second wives, they disliked each other.

For 10 years, Louise and Lynne fumbled around each other, often using Evan to communicate. Lynne, like many ex-wives, felt replaced. Louise, like many step-moms, felt Lynne was trying to intrude on her new life. The hostility bubbled silently just below the surface of every decision and everything that involved Evan.

One day they got together and decided to cooperate instead of fight. That worked so well, they decided to help other people. The result was an organization which now receives calls from around the country and TV appearances. They recently appeared on TV on "To Tell the Truth." After contestants tried to guess who was telling the truth, the host said,

"Now will the real Co-Mamas Please Stand Up."

They just received a contract with Simon and Schuster/Fireside to publish a book about their struggle, which resulted in the organization Co-Mamas.

Louise has years of experience conducting seminars and trainings. Lynne co-developed a technique to help people who stutter.

They work with a psychologist, Dr. Marjorie Krausz, who has 27 years of psychological experience. Dr. Krausz has led workshops on such topics as The Dynamics of Healthy Relationships, Parenting, and Coping with Difficult People.

See page 30 for information on how to reach Co-Mamas.

Parenting Coalition International Affiliates with CRC

Belinda Rollins
President

Suzanne Begin
Board Chairman

Belinda Rollins, the indefatigable head of Parenting Coalition International, Inc. has accepted an invitation from CRC to affiliate her organization with CRC. Rollins, whose organization is based in Washington, D.C., has spent more than six years building a coalition of parenting organizations. PCI works to help parenting organizations around the country to fulfill their own missions by improved networking with other groups, including potential funding sources.

PCI's Board Chairman is Suzanne Begin, of Atlanta, certified as a Family Life Educator by the National Council on Family Relations.

PCI was instrumental in convincing Congress in 1993 to declare the fourth Sunday in July as National Parents Day. Each year, groups around the country are urged to hold celebrations and activities acknowledging parents.

PCI describes itself as the "clearinghouse of clearinghouses." Its website is parentingcoalition.org

Prior to the 9th annual Family Re-Union Conference in Nashville, Tennessee in November, sponsored by Vice-President Al Gore and Vanderbilt University, Rollins led a networking session that included CRC, Parents Without Partners, and other groups. See Page 30 for additional information on PCI.

First Ever Chapter in Maine

Jan Brown

Jan Brown of Maine has formed the first ever CRC chapter in that state. Jan is a custodial mother of children Desiree, 18, and Sean, 10, but whose husband Tedd has gone through an enormous battle with his ex-wife over access to his children Charlotte, 11, and T.J., 7. Tedd has not seen his two children, who live in Massachusetts, for four years. Jan is a paralegal student, due to graduate in 2001, Jan opened the first ever Men's Help Line in Maine, tollfree at 1-877-643-1120, access code 0757, which also makes referrals to the existing 14 projects for women across the state. Jan plans to work on the legislative front for more prosecution of false allegations, so officials can provide help to children who really are abused.

They live in Harmony, a town one hour from August, the state capitol.

Family Facts

Again — The U.S. Census Bureau Shows Connection between Shared Parenting and Financial Child Support

For the second time, the U.S. Census Bureau has shown a connection between joint custody (shared parenting) and a higher payment of financial child support.

A Census Bureau report released in October 2000 found that 83 percent of custodial parents with joint (legal) custody and visitation arrangements received some or all of the child support they were due On the other hand, among parents with neither joint custody nor visitation, only 36 percent of custodial parents received any support. The most frequently given reason for not having a legal agreement that would provide for support are, in percentages:

- Parents did not feel the need to get legal and go to court (32.4);
- Felt that the other parent could not afford to pay or that the other parent provided what they could for support (about 23 percent each).
- Did not want other parent to pay (18.9)
- Did not legally establish paternity (17.5)
- Did not want to have contact with other parent (15.3).
- Other reasons (14.3)
- Could not locate other parent (13.3)
- Child stays with other parent part of the time (12.7)
- Child was too old (0.4)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Child Support for Custodial Mothers and Fathers: 1997 (P60-212).

This confirms an earlier (1992) Census Bureau report that said 66 percent of mothers with a child support award who did not receive payment from the father said it is because the fathers were unable to pay.

And an earlier (1997) U.S. Census Bureau report found the connection between joint custody (shared parenting) and a higher payment of financial support.

The earlier report found that 90.2 of fathers with joint custody paid all of their support owed, 79.1 percent of fathers with access (visitation) to their children paid part of their support, while only 44.5 percent of fathers with neither joint custody nor visitation paid child support.

Start Saying "Parenting," Not "Paternity"

Some parenting activists, state officials and child support vendors (companies that sell products to child support offices) are starting to use the phrase "parentage establishment," not "paternity establishment." Paternity refers only to fathers, while parentage refers to fathers, mothers and children. Raising of children is an effort that requires both mothers and fathers—and this includes babies born in hospitals to never-married parents. Parentage gets parents thinking from Day 1 that they are mutually responsible for raising of their child. Parentage suggests that parents need a parenting agreement as to how they will provide for their child emotionally and financially.

Research shows that when both parents are involved in raising their children, children do better on all measurements of behavior. (See American Psychological Association, Section on School Psychology Report, 1998, available from the Children's Rights Council, 300 "I" Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.)

70% of Highly Conflicted Parents Reach Parenting Agreements

A Special Masters program to help highly conflicted parents to cooperate in the raising of their child has been established in several states.

One such program, in New York State, is a specialized mediation service for parents who have a high level of conflict, are chronic litigators and whose children pay the price for this conflict.

In New York, 70 percent of parents have reached parenting agreements.

Because of the high conflict, the parents are usually seen separately, not together. Parents are encouraged to adopt a flexible position rather than "my way or the highway."

Much attention is given to the introduction of solution focused models or problem solving.

Connecticut and California are among other states offering similar programs.

For more information, contact CRC.

From Volume 15, Number 3/4, Fall 2000/Winter 2001,
Speak Out for Children, newsletter of the Children's Rights Council
300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002-4389 phone (202) 547-6227

Congressional Update

New Law Would Establish Police-Station Type Transfers for Children

Congress has passed a $30 million dollar provision—$15 million a year for each of 2 years—to establish supervised visitation as part of an effort to protect Women Against Violence.

Section 305 of the Violence Against Women Act signed by President Clinton would authorize the Attorney General to set up such sites around the country.

To receive funding, states or non-profit groups would have to work with local women's shelters, and organizations designed to protect women from violence.

Organizations which operate supervised access sites find that violence against women or children constitute about 15 percent of the clients who use these sites. Other reasons that judges refer parents to the site are for alcohol and substance abuse problems, severe communication problems between the parents, or re-entry of a parent into a child's life after a long absence.

About 40 percent of parents court ordered to use these sites are women.

CRC has operated one supervised access site in Maryland for more than a year. We take security precautions to protect participants, but we believe that the requirement to work with domestic violence shelters would lead to supervised visitation in settings that are as difficult for parents and children as police stations.

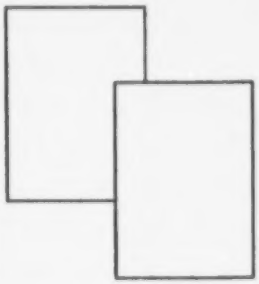
Families need "neutral settings" and so long as these settings protect children and parents and offer a "Safe Haven" for transitional parenting to take place, they should receive funding.

Although this bill is now law, **THE FUNDING FOR THE BILL WILL NOT OCCUR UNTIL FEBRUARY, WHEN THE NEW CONGRESS CONVENES.**

We ask you to write the following letter to the Appropriations Committees in the House and the Senate.

Action Alert! Action Alert!

Write to Appropriations Committee Chairman Stevens (Senate) and Young (House) urging more funds for Family Friendly Programs, and only $1 million a year for Police Station Type Supervised Access to Children



C. W. Bill Young.
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
H-218
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Ted Stevens,
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear _____

I urge Congress to fund the pilot program for supervised visitation under the Violence Against Women Act for only $1 million a year, not $15 million.

The balance of the funds should go to increase the $10 million a year provided by the Welfare Reform Law for **six different types of programs** for the states, including supervised access to children, transfer of children between parents, mediation, parenting education, and parenting plans.

Setting up sites in cooperation with domestic violence shelters has already proven to be unworkable, because too many children and parents feel uncomfortable in such police station type settings.

Existing supervised sites run by the Children's Rights Council and other groups provide security and safety, but they are run in a "neutral" way that respects parents, and helps them do better by their children.

Visit one of these existing sites. Call CRC at 202-547-6227, or see their website at gocrc.com

Please provide just $1 million a year for the "pilot program" in VAWA and provide other funds to proven, established programs.

Signed,
Your name

Short Version

I urge Congress to fund the pilot program for supervised visitation under the Violence Against Women Act for only $1 million a year. Give the other $14 provided in the pilot program to increase funding for access (visitation) programs provided for in the Welfare Reform Act, including transfer sites for children, mediation, parenting education and parenting plans.

Print your name, address and date on the letter (not just on the envelope)

Send a copy, with request for reply, to your own House Member and Senators.

Send a copy to CRC, at fax 202-546-4272 or address, 300 "I" Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

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Language of Act to Establish Supervised Access in Police-Station Type Settings

Violence Against Women Act, H.R. 1258

Title III, Subtitle B – Limiting the Effects of Violence on Children

Section 305. SAFE HAVENS FOR CHILDREN PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) In General - The Attorney General may award grants to States, units of local government, and Indian school governments that propose to enter into or expand the scope of existing contracts and cooperative agreements with public or nonprofit entities to provide supervised visitation and safe visitation exchange of children by and between parents in cases of domestic violence, child abuse or sexual assault.

(1) CONSIDERATIONS - In awarding grants under subsection (a) the Attorney General shall take into account

(b) the number of families to be served by the proposed visitation program and services;

(2) the extent to which the proposed supervised visitation programs and services serve underserved populations (as defined in section 2003 of title 1 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 USC. 36796gg-2);

(3) with respect to an applicant for a contract or cooperative agreement, the extent to which the applicant demonstrates cooperation, and collaboration with nonprofit, nongovernment entitles in the local community served, including the State domestic violence coalition,State sexual assault coalition, local shelters, and programs for domestic violence and sexual assault victims; and

(4) the extent to which the applicant demonstrates coordination and collaboration with State and local court systems, including mechanisms for communication and referral.

(c) APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS–The Attorney General shall award grants for contracts and cooperative agreements to applicants that –

(1) demonstrate expertise in the area of family violence, including the areas of domestic violence or sexual assault, as appropriate

(2) ensure that any fees charged to individuals for use of programs and services are based on the income of those individuals, unless otherwise provided by court order;

(3) demonstrate that adequate security measures, including adequate facilities, procedures, and personnel capable of preventing violence are in place for the operation of supervised visitation programs and services or safe visitation exchange; and

(4) prescribe standards by which the supervised visitation or safe visitation exchange will occur.

(d) REPORTING –

(1) IN GENERAL - Not more than 1 year after the last day of the first fiscal year commencing on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than 180 days after the last day of each fiscal year thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report that includes information concerning–

(A) the number of –

(i) individuals served and the number of individuals turned away from visitation programs and services and safe visitation exchange (catalogued by State);

(ii) the number of individuals from underserved populations served and turned away from services, and

(iii) the type of problems that underlie the need for supervised visitation or safe visitation exchange, such as domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, other physical abuse, or a combination of such factors;

(B) the numbers of supervised or safe visitation exchanges under a separation or divorce decree or protection order, through child protection services or other social services agencies, or by any other order of a civil, criminal, juvenile, or family court;

(C) the process by which children or abused partners are protected during visitations, temporary custody transfers and other activities for which supervised visitation is established under this section;

(D) safety and security problems occurring during the reporting period during supervised visitation under this section, including the number of parental abduction cases,and

(E) the number of parental abduction cases in a judicial district among supervised visitation programs and services under this section, both as identified in criminal prosecution and custody violations.

(2) The Attorney General shall establish guidelines for the collection and reporting of data under this subjection.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS – There is authorized to be appropriated from the Violence Crime Reduction Trust Fund established under the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 1421) to carry out this section $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2001 and 2002.

(f) ALLOTMENT FOR INDIAN TRIBES – Not less than .5 percent of the total amount made available for each fiscal year to carry out this section shall be available for grants to Indian tribal governments.

This sign appeared on 50 buses in Washington, D.C. during August and part of September, 2000. CRC received many phone calls from parents who saw the signs.

New Proposal Could Encourage Parental Abductions

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) Family Law Section [http://www.nccusl.org/uniformacts-subjectmatter.htm#family] has recommended that states adopt a replacement for the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act (UCCJA) known as the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) which can be viewed at:

http://www.law.upenn.edu/bll/ulc/fnact99/1990s/uccjea97.htm

While the intent of the proposal is to minimize parental abductions and jurisdiction shopping, the new "Emergency Jurisdiction" language will not only defeat the intent of the proposal, but will encourage parental abductions.

This new "Emergency" language provides for unsubstantiated "threats" a parent claims were made against him/her to be sufficient to nullify jurisdiction in the home state.

Adoption of this language will allow a parent to go to the state with the highest child support guidelines, make an unsubstantiated allegation of abuse or threat of abuse against him/her... and that state can (and will) assume custody jurisdiction. Once the state assumes custody jurisdiction, they can (and most likely will) assume child support jurisdiction.

This proposed "Emergency Language" is a major change. It expands the criteria from abuse, neglect or threat of the same against the child to "threats against parent" 22 states have already adopted this law.

As a typical example, in Virginia, this bill, introduced by Senator Bill Mimms (R-Leesburg) is SB 462 (carried over from 1999.) It can be viewed at: http://legl.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?ses=001&typ=bil&val=SB462

The emergency jurisdiction language is in section 20-146.15. ° 20-146.15. Temporary emergency jurisdiction.

A. A court of this Commonwealth has temporary emergency jurisdiction if the child is present in this Commonwealth and the child has been abandoned or it is necessary in an emergency to protect the child because the child, or a sibling or parent of the child, is subjected to or threatened with mistreatment or abuse.

Compare this language to the existing VA Code: ° 20-126A.3:

The child is physically present in this Commonwealth and (i) the child has been abandoned, or (ii) it is necessary in an emergency to protect the child because he has been subjected to or threatened with mistreatment or abuse or is otherwise neglected or dependent.

All courts agree that the "emergency" section is the one most subject to manipulative abuse by child-snatchers and forum-shoppers because it throws out all the careful jurisdiction-allocation rules of the UCCJA and the PKPA (Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act.)

This is an important proposal to watch. Most states already have sufficient domestic violence safety-nets incorporated into their laws. Please share your concerns with legislatures that are considering this proposal and for the 22 states that have already adopted this language, collect the data showing how the new "emergency custody jurisdiction" language has caused an increase in parental abductions and ask them to modify that section so that the law conforms to NCCUSL's original intent... to eliminate "forum-shopping" and parental abduction.

Updated Parenting Directory Available

Help More People! Find out about the 1,050 other groups around the country working on family issues, so that you can make referrals to parents who call you and need help.

Order CRC's "International Parenting Directory" in hardcopy or disc. It is also on our parenting website, **info4parents.com**

The Directory contains listings of about 1,050 organizations that work in areas such as custody, access (visitation), and prevention of parental kidnapping.

The Directory is $12 for CRC members, and $15 for non-members. CRC thanks Paul Robinson and Ed Mudrak for their hard work in updating this Directory.

The hardcopy is updated once a year; the disc and website are updated frequently. Order from CRC and specify which version you want—hardcopy or disc.

Please fax us corrections or updates on information whenever you can, to 202-546-4272.

Intellectual Property Protection

Charlie Ruggiero, who obtained trademark protection for the name and logo "Children's Rights Council" and the name and logo for our newsletter "Speak Out for Children" is a specialist in trademark, patent, copyright, and licensing law. He is a partner in the law firm of Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero and Perle, 1 Landmark Square, Suite 903, Stamford, CT 06901, telephone (203) 327-6067.

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Congressional Update

Fatherhood Bill Stalled in U.S. Senate

The $1.50 million Fatherhood bill that was approved twice by the U.S. House of Representatives stalled in the Senate before the November 7 election.

The bill, H.R. 4689, would have provided funds to encourage the role of fathers as parents in low income families and to help fathers better provide for their children.

There was a strong push to have the Senate pass the bill in October or early November, but it did not come to a vote.

The bill could have been considered if a special session of Congress was convened after the November election. Alternatively, the bill could be considered by the new Congress that convenes in late January, 2001.

Welfare Reform, passed by Congress for the first time in 1996, is up for renewal in 2001. A fatherhood bill may be considered as part of Welfare Reform renewal.

The Fatherhood bill was passed for the first time by the House in 1999. The second time, it was attached to the Child Support Omnibus Bill of 2000. That bill provided that when child support is paid by, say, a father *after* the mother receives welfare, the child support should be forwarded to the mother. In the past, the child support would be split 50-50 by the state and the federal government, to reimburse them for the payment of welfare to the mother.

In order to help families, both the states and federal government were willing to give up their portion of reimbursement. Senator Don Nickles (R-OK) was concerned that the bill would "mandate" the states to pass through their child support reimbursement to the custodial parent.

In order to win Nickles's approval, House managers of the bill "converted the mandate to an option, thereby making Senator Nickles and the state organizations happy," according to one Capitol Hill observer.

The federal government mandate for pass-through was not changed.

Still, Sen Nickles, who chaired a powerful Senate committee, would not approve passage of the over-all legislation.

Robert Rector of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank in Washington, D.C., wrote to members of Congress urging that the Fatherhood bill not be passed, because it was "anti-marriage."

Chairman Nancy Johnson of the Human Resources Subcommittee, House Ways and Means Committee, who had led House passage of the bill in two occasions, wrote a follow-up letter to Congressmembers saying that the bill was not anti-marriage.

To what extent Sen. Nickles may have been affected by the Robert Rector letter was unclear.

The Year 2000 was CRC's 15th Anniversary—But We are Still Celebrating Until British Embassy Reception and Conference!

We appreciate everyone who has worked for children and CRC. We thank all those who have enabled CRC to improve the lives of children and families. So many have given so much, of their time, efforts, and financial contributions.

For 2000–2001, CRC has three new levels of support of CRC. They are:

- A PLATINUM LIFE MEMBER is one who donates $5,000 or more
- A GOLD LIFE MEMBER is one who donates $2,500 to $4,999.
- A SILVER LIFE MEMBER is one who donates $1,000 to $2,499.
- A LIFE MEMBER is one who donates CRC $500 to $999.

Anyone who has contributed to CRC in the past may increase the donation to reach any of the life member levels. If you are unsure about your previous donation level, contact CRC, and we would be glad to let you know. Thank you.

CRC Wants Chapters in Every State

For development of chapters in states that do not yet have any CRC chapters,

For information on states out west, contact CRC Board Member from the chapters Terry Cady in Illinois.

Re: states in the south, contact Board Advisor from the chapters Fred Wall in North Carolina.

Re: states in the east, contact Board Advisor from the chapters Margaret Wuwert in Ohio.

See their names and numbers above.

Join CRC, then ask for a copy of the 100-page CRC booklet that explains everything you need to know about affiliation. The cost of the booklet is $15.00.

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Children's Rights Council

2001 CATALOG OF RESOURCES
for parents and professionals

MANY BOOKS DISCOUNTED!
Buy at Discount & Sell for Full Price to Your Group
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Discounted Books Are in Bold Type

BOOKS FOR KIDS

A Heart Full of Love, written by Bette S. Margolis, illustrated by Christie L. Kline. A wonderful book for that special 7- to 9-year-old in your life who is undergoing parental divorce.
SB-101 ---------- $15.00

I Love You More Than..., by Elizabeth Hickey and James Cohen. Illustrated by Lynda Smart Brown, 1998.
HB-102 ---------- $16.95

Daddy Day, Daughter Day, by CNN's Larry King and Chaia King, 1997. A true story of divorce told through both a child's and a father's perspective.
SB-103 ---------- $12.95

How to Survive Your Parent's Divorce: Kids Advice to Kids, by Gayle Kimball, 1994. Easy-to-read one-of-a-kind guide for young people and their parents as they reshape their lives post-divorce.
SB-104 ..... Reg. $9.95 *Discount Price $4.00

I Think Divorce Stinks, by Marcia Lebowitz, 1992. Helps children recognize that it is appropriate to have negative feelings about divorce and to express those feelings.
SB-105 ---------- $4.95

What am I Doing in a Stepfamily?, by Claire Berman, 1994. A children's book explaining how two families can be better than one.
SB-106 ---------- $12.00

It's Not Your Fault, Koko Bear, by Vicki Lansky, 1998. Koko Bear can help children understand divorce and sends a good message.
SB-107 ---------- $5.99

The Divorce Workbook, by Sally Ives, David Fassler & Michelle Lasch, 1985 How to facilitate honest and open communication between adults and children at the traumatic time of separation and divorce. Q and A for kids.
SB-108 ---------- $15.95

My Book, My Self for Boys, by Linda Madaras and Area Madaras, 1995. The "What's Happening to My Body for Boys."
SB-109 ..... Reg. $11.95 *Discount Price $6.00

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

NEW!
The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce—A 25-Year Landmark Study, by Judith S. Wallerstein, Julia M. Lewis, and Sandra Blakeslee, 2000. The best-selling book that says many children of divorce suffer long-term effects from divorce.
SB-200 ---------- $24.95

50/50 Parenting, by Gayle Kimball, Ph.D. Almost 300 co-parents and 83 children report on life in Married, Divorced, and Step-family situations.
SB-201 ---------- $9.95

Divorce Book for Parents, by Vicki Lansky, 1987. Warmly supportive and reassuring, this comprehensive guide speaks to all divorced and divorcing parents.
HB-203 ---------- $6.00

The Divorce Help Source Book, by Margorie Engel, 1994. Combines sound advice with hundreds of potential sources of help to assist you in getting the results you deserve.
SB-204 ..... Reg. $17.95 *Discount Price $7.00

Divorced Dads, Shattering the Myths, by Sanford L. Braver, Ph.D., 1998. The surprising truth about fathers, children and divorce.
HB-205 ---------- $24.95

For the Sake of the Children, by Kris Kline and Stephen Pew, 1992. Discusses how to share your children with your ex-spouse despite your anger. Kline is CRC's Florida coordinator. PHOTOCOPIES ONLY!
HB-206 ..... Reg. $18.95 *Discount Price $9.00

Divorce: Crisis, Challenge, or Relief?, by David A. Chiriboga and Linda S. Catron, 1991. Addresses the impact of divorce on children through different stages of their lives.
SB-207 ..... Reg. $22.50 *Discount Price $5.00

Why Parents Disagree: How Women and Men Parent Differently and How We Can Work Together, by Dr. Ron Taffel, 1994. An explanation of why parents begin to lead different lives and how parents can raise kids as partners, not enemies.
SB-208 ---------- $23.00

The Good Divorce, by Constance R. Ahrons, Ph.D., 1994. An outstanding book with a powerful message: while divorce is not 'good,' there is a path to a 'good divorce' where parents cooperate fully for the sake of their children.
HB-209 ---------- $23.00

A Hole in My Heart, by Claire Berman, 1991. A book that will enable adult children of divorce to recognize the role they play in changing patterns in their lives.
SB-210 ..... Reg. $10.00 *Discount Price $5.00

Families Apart, by Melinda Blau, 1993. 10 Keys to Successful Co-Parenting. A blend of the author's own research, and that of other experts, and rich in anecdotal information.
SB-211 ..... Reg. $22.95 *Discount Price $10.00

REVISED!

Mom's House, Dad's House, by Isolina Ricci, Ph.D., 1998. Making shared custody work: How parents can make two homes for their children after divorce. 100 **New** pages to this classic book!
SB-212 ---------- $20.00

Negotiating Love: How Women and Men Can Resolve Their Differences, by Riki Robbins Jones, 1995. Points our destructive habits by both genders which, when realized, strengthen families and relationships.
SB-213 ---------- $14.00

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Surviving Divorce, by Paula Weintraub and Terry Hillman, 1996.
SB-214 ..... Reg. $16.95 *Discount Price $7.00

Putting Kids First, by Michael Oddenino. A must read for caring parents and professionals, by CRC's General Counsel. Includes a children's bill of rights.
SB-215 ---------- $9.95

Second Chances, by Judith Wallerstein and Sandra Blakeslee, 1989. Based on ten year longitudinal study of the effects of divorce on adults and children.
HB-216 ..... Reg. $14.95 *Discount Price $5.00

Surviving the Break-Up, How Children and Parents Cope with Divorce, by Judith Wallerstein, Ph.D. and Joan Kelly, Ph.D., 1980. A classic that is still valid in discussing the problems of children being raised by single parents.
SB-217 ..... Reg. $14.00 *Discount Price $10.00

REVISED!

Creating a Successful Parenting Plan, by Dr. A. Jayne Major. Nationally acclaimed author of "Breakthrough Parenting" and "Winning the Custody War Without Casualties"
SB-218 ---------- $24.95

3 Steps to a Strong Family, by Linda and Richard Eyre, 1994. A 3-step program that can make your family life happier, less stressful, and more rewarding.
HB-219 ---------- $19.50

Familyhood: Nurturing the Values that Matter, by Dr. Lee Salk, 1992. A practical, inspiring guide to communicating values.
HB-220 ..... Reg. $21.00 *Discount Price $10.00

The Best Parent is Both Parents: A Guide to Shared Parenting in the 21st Century, the CRC book edited by David L. Levy. Order bulk copies (10 or more) for only $4 a copy, resell the copies for the list price of $10 each, and make a profit for you or your organization! Individual copies will continue to be available from CRC for $10 each, plus $4 for postage, as long as supplies last. If you would like copies (individual or bulk order) autographed by David L. Levy, just state to whom you would like it autographed (yourself, perhaps your children—give their names).
SB-221 ——— Order 10 copies or more each only $4.00
---------- Individual copies $10.00

Helping Your Kids Cope With Divorce, by M. Gary Neuman, L.M.H.C. 1996. This book is based on the nationally renowned "Sandcastles" workshop.
HB-222 ---------- $25.00

The Sibling Society, by Robert Bly, 1996, author of "Iron John." Describes our culture as one where adults remain children, and children have no desire to become adults—a nation of squabbling siblings.
HB-223 ..... Reg. $25.00 *Discount Price $12.00

NEW!

Ceasefire, by Cathy Young, 1999, syndicated columnist. Why women and men must join forces to achieve true equality; how that will help children, too.
HB-224 ---------- $25.00

Saying No Is Not Enough, by Richard Schwebel, Ph.D., 1989. Raising children who make wise decisions about drugs and alcohol.
SB-225 ---------- $11.00

Abolition of Marriage, by Maggie Gallagher, 1996, syndicated columnist. How we destroy lasting love.
HB-226 ---------- $25.00

Friends for Life, by Susan Jonas and Marilyn Nissenson, 1997. Enriching the bond between mothers and their adult daughters.
HB-227 ---------- $29.00

Talking Back to Ritalin, by Peter R. Breggin, M.D., 1998, 4-time guest on Oprah. What doctors aren't telling you about the dangers of stimulants.
HB-228 ---------- $25.00

The Assault on Parenthood, by Dana Mack, 1997. The author, a scholar at the Institute for American Values, describes how our culture undermines the family.
HB-229 ..... Reg. $25.00 *Discount Price $10.00

Babyhood, by Paul Reiser, 1997. This is not a how-to-book. It is rather, humor, and funny stories, by the star, co-creator and executive producer of the NBC Series *Mad About You.* Reiser's first book, *Couplehood*, was a #1 New York Times bestseller list.
HB-230 .....Reg. $22.00
*Discount Price $10.00

Working Fathers, by James A. Levine, CRC Advisor, and Todd L. Pittinsky. A guide to help fathers as well as mothers, employees and manages, succeed in managing the competitive demands of home and work.
HB-231 ..... Reg. $23.00 *Discount Price $10.00

The War Against Parents, by Sylvia Ann Hewlett and Cornel West. Praised by CRC in a letter to the Washington Post Book World when the book was published in 1998.
HB-232$24.00 *Discount Price $10.00

The Divorce Culture, by Barbara Dafoe Whitehead (1996). Worth reading for its insightful views of marriage and divorce, but deficient in not recognizing the phenomenon of the "forced away" and "pushed away" parents.
HB-233 ..... Reg. $24.00 *Discount Price $10.00

Business Dad, by Tom Hirschfeld. How Good Businessmen Can Make Great Fathers (and Vice Versa), 1999. Recommended by Stephen R. Covey author of *The 7 habits of Highly Effective People,* and by James A. Levine, director, The Fatherhood Project, Families and Work Institute.
HB-218 ..... Reg. $17.25 *Discount Price $10.00

Ask the Children, by Ellen Galinsky, president of the Families and Work Institute, 1999. What America's Children Really Think about Working Parents.
HB-235 ---------- Reg. $25.00
*Discount Price $10.00

BOOKS FOR STEPPARENTS

How to Win as a Stepfamily, by Emily Visher, Ph.D. and John Visher, M.D., 1982. The co-founders of the Stepfamily Association of America answer questions and give suggestions on how to make stepfamilies work.
HB-301 ---------- $13.95

Making it as a Stepparent, New Roles/ New Rules, by Claire Berman, 1986. Former president of the Stepfamily Association of America provides practical help and insights.
SB-302 ---------- $7.95

Stepfamilies Stepping Ahead, edited by Mala Burt for the Stepfamily Association of America.
SB-303 ---------- $9.95

BOOKS FOR GRANDPARENTS

Grandparenting: It's Not What It Used to be, by Irene Endicott, forward by Gloria Gatiher, Expert Answers to your questions.
SB-402 ---------- Reg. $15.00
*Discount Price $7.00

Grandparenting in a Changing World, by Edna LeShan, 1997. "Common sense presented with uncommon grace." — Kirkus Reviews.
SB-401 ..... Reg. $12.00 *Discount Price $6.00

BOOKS FOR SINGLE PARENTS

Still a Dad, The Divorced Father's Journey, by CRC's own Serge Prengel, 1998. Published with praise from Warren Farrell, Karen DeCrow, and James A. Cook.
SB-2501 ---------- $13.95

Surviving Divorce—Women's Resources After Separation, by Mavis Maclean, 1991. Women coping with earnings, maintenance and welfare in the U.S., France, and Great Britain.
HB-502 ---------- $5.00

Another Way Home: A Single Father's Story, by John Thorndike, 1996. A memoir of Thorndike's life with his wife and the difficult decisions he has had to make regarding their son's life.
HB-503 ..... Reg. $24.00 *Discount Price $12.00

Fatherless America, by David Blankenhorn, 1995. Shows the devastating consequences of fatherlessness in both individual families and in our society.
HB-504 ..... Reg. $23.00 *Discount Price $10.00

The Masculine Mystique: The Politics of Masculinity, by Andrew Kimbrell, 1995. Presents the argument that American men are in crisis and includes what lead to this phenomenon.
HB-505 ..... Reg. $23.00 *Discount Price $10.00

The Daddy Track and the Single Father, by Geoffery L. Greif, 1990. A book about successfully coping with kids, housework, a job, an ex-wife, a social life, and the courts.
HB-506 ---------- $19.95

Money-Smart Divorce. What Women Need to Know about Money and Divorce, by Esther M. Berger, 1996.
SB-507 ---------- $22.00

Why Men Are the Way They Are, by Warren Farrell, 1986. Provides insights into loved one's secret insights and desires.
SB-509 ..... Reg. $5.99 *Discount Price $3.00

Fathers' Rights, by Jeffrey Leving. A best-selling book for fathers who want to maintain contact with their children.
SB-510 ---------- $12.50

The Divorced Parent: Success Strategies for Raising Your Children After Separation, by Stephanie Marston, 1994. Provides practical advice and specific tools for raising well-adjusted children.
HB-511 ---------- $21.00

Like Father, Like Son, By Hunter S. Fulghum, 1996. A collection of stories on being a man at midlife in America, with introduction by Robert Fulghum.
HB-512 ..... Reg. $21.95 *Discount Price $11.00

Child Custody Made Simple, by Webster Watnik, 1997. Answers all your questions about child custody and child support for a single parent.
SB-513 ---------- $21.95

The Single Parent's Money Guide, by Emily Card, 1996. A plan for managing your money when you are the only one your family can count on.
SB-514 ..... Reg. $14.95 *Discount Price $6.00

Questions from Dad, by CRC Spokesperson and pop singer Dwight Twilley, 1994. A very cool way to communicate with your child. Introduced by Dr. Susan Forward.
SB-515 ---------- $17.00

I Am the Mother of Sons. Poems by Jayne Jaudon Ferrer, 1996. Illustrated by Lina Levy.
HB-516 ---------- $10.00

Men on Divorce—The Other Side of the Story, edited by Penny Kaganoff and Susan Spano, 1997.
SB-517 ..... Reg. $12.00 *Discount Price $6.00

One Swell Dad, by Pat Ross, 1992. The book of memories and expressions of fatherly endearment from the past.
HB-518 ---------- $9.00

MEDIATION & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Family Evaluations in Child Custody, Mediation, Arbitration and Litigation, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1989. In this update, Gardner proposes a three-phase system to remove child custody evaluations from courtroom litigation.
HB-601 ---------- $45.00

Healing Hearts, Helping Children and Adults Recover from Divorce, by Elizabeth Hickey, M.S.W., CRC's National Parent Education Director, and Elizabeth Dalton, attorney and mediator
HB-602 ---------- $15.00

Parent Vs. Parent: How You and Your Child Can Survive the Custody Battle, by Stephen P. Herman, M.D., 1990. Expert advice for parents through all stages of the divorce process.
HB-603 ---------- $20.95

Between Love and Hate, A Guide to Civilized Divorce, by Lois Gold, M.S.W., 1992. Learn the fundamental skills of negotiation conflict resolution and mediation, for everyone's good.
SB-604 ..... Reg. $13.95 *Discount Price $6.00

LEGAL ISSUES

NEW!
From Courtship to Courtroom: What Divorce Law Is Doing to Mariage, by Jed H. Abraham, 2000. Abraham, a lawyer, mediator, and joint custody advocate, writes a chilling picture of how today's divorce laws make life miserable for families.
SB-701 ---------- $15.00

A Family Divided, by Robert Mendelson, 1997. A discussion of a divorced father's struggle with the child custody industry.
HB-703 ---------- Reg. $21.00
***Discount Price $10.00**

The Custody Revolution, by Richard Warshak, 1992. The Father Factor and the Motherhood Mystique.
HB-704 ..... Reg. $21.00 *Discount Price $15.00

Custody for Fathers, by Carleen and Michael Brennan, 1994. Includes more than 100 strategies that have helped fathers win (share) custody of their children in a mom-biased system.
HB-705 ..... Reg. $24.95 *Discount Price $12.00

Divorce and the Myth of Lawyers, by Lenard Marlow, J.D., 1992. The exposition of myths regarding the legal system and its effects on divorcing couples.
HB-706 ---------- $10.95

The Father's Emergency Guide to Divorce/Custody Battle, A Tour Through the Predatory World of Judges, Lawyers, Psychologists and Social Workers in the Subculture of Divorce, by Robert Seidenberg, with the legal insights of Williams Dawes, Esq., 1997.
SB-707 ---------- $15.00

Every Parent's Guide to the Law, by Deborah L. Forman. Everything you need to know about legal issues affecting parents and children pre-birth through the child-rearing years.
SB-708 ---------- $18.00

Divorce Yourself, the National No-Fault Divorce Kit, by Daniel Sitarz, 3rd ed. 1993. Everything you and your spouse will need to obtain your divorce without using a lawyer. Instructions, easy-to-use legal forms, checklists, and courtroom guidelines. Legally valid in all 50 states and D.C.
SB-709 ..... Reg. $24.95 *Discount Price $15.00

PARENTAL KIDNAPPING

Autographed Copies!

They Are My Children, Too, by Catherine Meyer, 1999. Powerful account of a mother's loss of her children. A case of international parental kidnapping. Written by CRC's new Honorary President.
HB-801 ---------- $23.00

When Parents Kidnap, by Geoffrey Greif and Rebecca Hegar, 1993. This book captures the experiences of parents searching for their children and abductors who have taken them; also makes public policy recommendations.
HB-802 ---------- $22.95

CHILD ABUSE

Ashes to Ashes...Families to Dust, by Dean Tong, 1996. False accusations of child abuse: A road map for survivors that helps to answer their questions.
SB-901 ---------- $15.95

The Parental Alienation Syndrome, A guide for mental health and legal professionals, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1995. An authoritative work on the Parental Alienation Syndrome.
SB-903 ---------- $35.00

NEW!

Therapeutic Interventions for Children with Parental Alienation Syndrome, by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. (2001). This is a book for therapists working with families where children are alienated from a parent.
SB-904 ---------- not for parents.

Children Held Hostage, Dealing with Programmed and Brainwashed Children, by Stanley S. Clawar, Ph.D., C.C.S. and Brynne Rivlin, M.S.S., 1991. This book is approved by the American Bar Association.
SB-905 ---------- $50.00

Recognizing Child Abuse, by Douglas Besharov, Ph.D., a resident scholar of the American Enterprise Institute. A comprehensive guide to recognizing, preventing, and handling child abuse and neglect.
SB-906 ---------- $12.00

The Book of David, How Preserving Families Can Cost Children's Lives, by Richard Gelles, 1996. A convincing and dramatic book about the flaws of the child welfare system.
HB-907 ---------- $23.00

Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy, by Alex V. Levin, MD., and Mary S. Sheridan, 1995. Issues in Diagnosis and Treatment. Deliberate creation or false reporting of illness, to gain attention for the caretaker. This is a form of child abuse.
HB-908 ..... Reg. $60.00
*Discount Price $30.00

The Abuse Excuse—And Other Cop-Outs, by noted lawyer Alan Dershowitz, 1994. Sob stories and evasions of responsibility.
HB-909 ..... Reg. $23.00 *Discount Price $10.00

PSYCHOLOGY

Father/Daughter, Mother/Son, by Verena Kast, 1997. Self-Help/Psychology. A modern analysis of parent-child relationships and their psychological effects — both negative and positive.
SB-1001 ---------- $13.00

VIDEOS

Children: The Experts on Divorce, by Elizabeth Hickey, MSW 1994. The children speak from their own experience of going through their parents' divorce. A CRC-award winning video prepared by CRC's National Parent Education Director.
V101 ---------- $25.00

Don't Forget The Children, by the Dallas, Texas Association of Young Lawyers. A CRC award-winning video that provides information on co-parenting in the event of divorce.
V102 ---------- $20.00

Psychotherapeutic & Legal Approaches To Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS), by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. An in-depth discussion of ways that parents can alienate the child against the other parent.
V103 ---------- $25.00

REPORTS

Interference with Access (Visitation) as a Tort. Updated 1997. Not a frequent remedy, but one that may be available.
R101 ---------- $10.00

Parenting Plans. Three different parenting plans that can help you and other parents.
R102 ---------- $10.00

Joint Custody as a Child's Right—a law review article (1988), a legal brief with citations up to 1994 and a report by Section 16 of the American Psychological Association describing "favorable outcomes" for children with joint custody (1995)
R103 ---------- $10.00

Send for a list of other reports.

PINS AND BUTTONS

The famous "Children First" pin. 8 colors, with figures of seven children standing on a field of green with logo "Children First." Two prongs. 3/4" high, 1-1/2" wide.
P101 ---------- $8.00

Button created by Patti Diroff that says "Child support is more than a check, it's being a parent." With CRC logo, including children's faces. 4 colors, round, 2-1/4" diameter.
B202 ---------- $2.00

T-SHIRTS

CRC 4-color t-shirts say "Help Stop Crime, Give Children 2 Parents" Specify size: child S, M, L; Adult S, M, L, XL. Specify color: white or blue.
---- $10 adults, $8 children

MUGS

Each white ceramic mug says "Children's Rights Council" and "The Best Parent is Both Parents." A Mark Roseman creation.
---------- $8 each or two for $15.
Add $2 for shipping first mug, $1 each additional mug.

BUMPER STICKERS

The Best Parent is Both Parents, white printing on a black background.
----------$1 apiece, 6 for $5.00

Order Form

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Equal Parents' Week Sent a Message Around the World

September 25–October 1, 2000

By Patti Diroff

CRC National Director of Equal Parents Week

"The Best Parent is Both Parents" message was sent this year with purple ribbons and candlelight vigils in 25 states. Equal Parents Week Vigils were held in prominent locations such as the Historic Liberty Bell in Philadelphia and the Jacob Purdy House in White Plains, New York. Individuals and organizations in the following states participated this year: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Through the efforts of Margaret Wuwert, CRC Ohio Coordinator and her enlisted support of Judge Andrew Devine of the Juvenile Court, Ohio Governor Robert Taft formally adopted the Equal Parents' Week from September 17-23, 2000. A family/social theme was designated for each day during the week and week-long activities took place involving several community groups.

This year, support for Equal Parents' Week gained significant international momentum and support. Six foreign countries—Canada, England, Spain, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile—were the sites for thirteen vigils and purple ribbon displays.

There are universal issues which affect people throughout the world. Many people have heartfelt devotion to their children and families. They have a deeply rooted dedication to reform their laws and legal systems. This motivates them to work together on such issues as Equal Parents' Week.

Special thanks to George Brito, director of "Corporation of Parents for the Equality of Rights in Front of the Child" in Santiago, Chile, and Julian Fitzgerald of the Equal Parenting Platform in England, whose international contacts were instrumental in gaining support for Equal Parents' Week, as well as preparing and distributing translations.

Patti Diroff may be contacted at 909/591-3689 and pattidiroff@worldnet.att.net http://members.tripod.com/epweek

International News

Two international events took place during Equal Parents' Week. On October 2, the Equal Parenting Party of England (CRC of the UK) presented the government with the Petition for Equal Parenting containing more than 20,000 signatures. This day marked the 1-year anniversary of the UK's Human Rights Act, which requires British judges to apply the European Convention on Human Rights in domestic courts.

During September and October, a Canadian movement called "Unity Trek" held meetings in various parts of Canada to gain political, public and media attention to the issues of family, divorce court, and enforcement of custody and access orders. As part of this movement, an organization called "Fix It for Kids" is being formed to unite people in Canada to work together for reform.

The Next Equal Parents Week is Sept. 24 –Sept. 30

Candlelight Vigils for 2001
Wednesday, September 26 8:30 p.m.

A Way to Adjust the Guideline

Ask a state agency working on child support guidelines in your state to invite Don Bieniewicz, CRC's expert on guidelines, to testify.

Asking Bieniewicz to testify could help convince your state to adopt portions of the only guidelines we know of that is based on a child having two parents.

This CRC guideline, authored by Bieniewicz, was published by the federal government in a publication entitled "Child Support Guidelines: The Next Generation."

To obtain a copy of the federal publication, phone (202) 401-9383, which is the Office of Child Support Enforcement's Child Support Reference Center, located at 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW, Washington, D.C. 20447. There is no charge for the publication, as long as supplies last.

Copies of the guideline itself as published by the government are available from CRC for $5.00 for CRC members, and $10.00 for non-members, including shipping and handling.

Write to Bieniewicz at 10004 Fairoaks Road, Vienna, VA 22181, contact him via email at DonBien@erols.com, or phone 703-255-0837 (evenings).

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Access Counseling in Nebraska

CRC of Nebraska/Iowa has received a $5,000 access (visitation) grant from the state of Nebraska. This is the third year in a row that the chapter has received a modest portion of state access grant funds.

The chapter will use the funds to augment volunteer efforts to provide access counseling to parents, other types of counseling, such as anger management and communication skills, parenting education, and a drop-off and pick-up site for children.

Parents who want access counseling must complete a two-page "Children and Parents Access Form".

Access counselors accredited by the Children's Rights Council conduct a review of the parent's case history and past relationship with his or her child. They review any parenting plan, access schedule and financial support orders and history. The focus is on the needs of the child and the benefits of a child-parent relationship.

For accuracy, the access counselor requests all relevant court document.

This review, which takes one to two hours, leads to a diagnosis of the type and cause of access problems that prevent a conflict-free and meaningful relationship between child and parents.

The accredited access counselor is not an attorney and will not give legal advice; but will recommend remedies which have proven to be effective, to improve access (visitation). These include "low adversarial litigation". Low adversarial litigation is conducted by lawyers with mediation training, who work to keep the conflict to a minimum, said Lyn Huerter. Lyn, with her husband Bill, are CRC co-coordinators of NE/IA.

"Access counselors provide specific written recommendations for problems," said Lyn.

CRC of Nebraska/Iowa has eight trained access counselors. All were trained by Dick Woods through CRC. Dick Woods of Iowa has developed the only comprehensive access counselor training course known in the U.S., and CRC is the only organization that offers accreditation for access counselors. The accreditation course will be again offered as a pre-CRC conference Institute at the CRC conference all day Thursday, May 3, 2000. Contact CRC for information.

Get a 3.9 percent CRC Credit Card

Get the CRC VISA Credit Card, and obtain a low 3.9 percent introductory rate. The credit card displays the CRC logo, and CRC receives a small contribution every time you use the card. CRC receives more if you break up a large purchase into several small purchases. For an application, contact CRC, or call MBNA at 1-800-523-7666. If you have trouble obtaining approval, contact CRC; we can't guarantee approval, but we will gladly try.

Order CRC Book and Make Money!

Order bulk copies (10 or more) of the still popular 1993 publication, *The Best Parent is Both Parents*, for only $4 a copy. Resell the copies for the list price of $10 each, and make a profit for you or your organization! Individual copies are $10.

Grandparents Access Denied

Vice-President Al Gore sponsored his 9th annual Family Re-union Conference at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, on November 19, 2000.

The emphasis at the conference was on grandparenting, but no one mentioned interference with grandparents access (visitation) to their grandchildren until CRC President David L. Levy raised the issue during a breakout session. He asked how many grandparents in the room had problems getting to see their grandchildren? About 18 of the 125 people in the room raised their hands. Levy recommended that because of this high number, denial of access (visitation) between grandparents and grandchildren should be talked about more frequently.

Mediation, Moveaway Help

Leslee Newman, J.D., who has been giving free consultations on move-away issues to CRC members, is available for mediation consultations (at a fee). Leslee, who is a trained mediator, can be reached at 714-282-1515. Her husband Don Smith, Ph.D., clinical psychologist, is available for child custody evaluations. Don's number is 714-939-6678. Don and Leslee are both in Orange County, California, but can handle cases anywhere in the country.

We thank Bladen Lithographics in Gaithersburg, MD for providing printing services to CRC.

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More Attention Paid to Kidnapping of Children

Meyer

Catherine Meyer Wages Efforts on Behalf of All Abducted Children

More public attention is being paid to international child abduction in the past few years, but the plight of many children goes unheeded.

CRC receives complaints from parents whose children are being held in Sweden, Germany, Japan, and other countries that have either not signed the Hague Convention, or have signed it but don't enforce it.

Background

The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction is a multilateral treaty which seeks to protect children from the harmful effects of international child abduction and retention by establishing administrative and judiciary remedies to bring about their "prompt" return to their country of habitual residence.

The Hague Convention is not concerned with the merits of a custody case. Complaints about the custodial parent or the terms of a custody award, are matters to be dealt with by the jurisdiction of the child's habitual residence. The paramount objective of the Convention is to return the child promptly, so that any subsequent welfare issues relating to the child can be decided in the home jurisdiction.

Except in unusual circumstances, the Convention is based on the assumption that it is in the child's best interest to be returned quickly to its country of habitual residence. This ensures that the abducting parent cannot profit from the abduction by choosing one jurisdiction over another, i.e., "forum shopping", in the hope of reversing previously custody decisions.

The Convention also seeks to secure protection for rights of access.

Sixty-three countries are parties to the Convention. For the Hague Convention to work effectively in its dual purpose of discouraging and returning abducted children promptly to the country of habitual residence, it must be consistently interpreted and enforced.

In the past few years there has been growing concern that the effectiveness of the Convention is being undermined by the failure of some signatory states to fulfill their obligations. Currently, the U.S. State Department says that it has files on more than 1,100 open international child abduction cases involving U.S. citizens. Congressional investigators estimate that the number of such cases is around 10,000, because many parents do not file.

CRC's honorary president and wife of the British Ambassador to the U.S., Catherine Meyer, is a victim parent. Her two sons were illegally retained by their German father in 1994 in defiance of their custody agreement. Despite initial court decisions in her favor and the pleas of high-ranking officials, she has been unable to get them back. Worse still, she has encountered enormous obstacles to gaining access to her two sons.

Campaign for All Children

While continuing her struggle, Catherine has waged a campaign on behalf of all children in a similar plight. As a result of the wide publicity for her case, including the publication of her book, "They Are My Children, Too," scores of American parents in a similar plight approached her.

Three Congressional hearings, at which she and other American parents testified, have been held within the past two years. This led to the passage of a resolution by Congress in May 2000, calling for the improved implementation of the International Hague Convention on Child Abduction by several countries, including Austria, Germany and Sweden.

Several days later, Joseph Cooke's story (his abducted children are in a foster home in Germany and he has no access to them) hit the front page of The Washington Post. Top officials immediately reacted. And in June, 2000, President Clinton raised these cases with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder during Clinton's official visit to Berlin. They agreed to establish a bi-lateral commission to examine the systemic problem and ways in which victim parents can have access to their children.

"CRC has always been against parental kidnapping of children," said CRC Board Chairman John L. Bauserman, Jr. "We want the return of children to the country of habitual residence, to enforce both custody and access (visitation). That is, where the custodial parent has taken the child, that child should also be returned to the country of habitual residence so that access can take place in a normal way.

CRC favors more shared parenting, because indications are that parents who are involved in their children's upbringing are less likely to kidnapping. "Almost all parental kidnapping take place in the context of sole custody adversarial battles," Bauserman, an attorney, noted.

Donors are Appreciated

CRC thanks everyone who contributes to CRC in the charity drive that takes place in all federal government offices every Fall. CRC is part of Independent Charities of America. We also thank those who contribute to CRC in the Washington, D.C., and San Francisco (Bay Area) United Way campaigns.

We also thank those who contribute to CRC through their United Way in some other part of the country, where we are not listed, but where employers may sometimes allow employees to designate CRC.

CRC depends on volunteer help and contributions for its existence.

If you wish to make your tax-deductible contribution directly to CRC, send it to CRC, 300 I Street, Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002.

Relinquishing Custody to Get Health Care

The practice of parents having to relinquish custody in order to obtain mental health care for their children has become all too common. Parents are unable to get adequate medical care through private insurance, so they turn to the child welfare system for help. However, they are told that health care can only be provided if the child is a ward of the state. The foster parent is then eligible to receive the resources and help that is denied to the child's parents. Once custody has been relinquished, parents are denied access to visit their child and to make important decisions concerning the welfare of the child.

According to research from Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, custody relinquishment such as this has been known to happen in at least twenty-seven states and affects "as many as twenty percent of families of children with serious emotional disturbance". There are several reasons why so many parents are asked to give up custody. Most often it is the inadequacy of states to provide and enforce health services that brings parents to the child welfare system in the first place.

The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law and the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health have written a guide, entitled *Staying Together: Preventing Custody Relinquishment for Children's Access to Mental Health Services*. This guide recognizes two clear goals toward finding a solution to this problem. Goal number one is "to prohibit child welfare agencies from requiring custody relinquishment for families to get services for children with significant mental health needs". Goal number two is "to prevent families from having to turn to the child welfare system for help by expanding access to home-and community-based mental health services and supports through the mental health care system". As disturbing as the practice of custody relinquishment is, the guide recognizes that the solution is not simply to end custody relinquishment. An end to custody relinquishment needs to be combined with expanded and more accessible mental health services for children.

Ways to Keep Children at Home

The guide suggests two important ways that states could possibly expand their Medicaid coverage. The first is the "Katie Beckett" option. This option allows states to expand Medicaid benefits to individuals who would normally have to live in an institution in order to receive medical coverage. This option allows a child with mental health needs to live at home and still be able to collect Medicaid benefits.

The second is the home-and community-based waiver. This allows states to cover the care of individuals through home and community based services, without which the individual would need to be hospitalized. Medicaid would normally pay for the cost of that hospitalization. a State may obtain such a waiver from the HealthCare Financing Administration.

There are options available to states to try to prevent custody relinquishment. No child should be forced to leave his or her home because the proper support system has not been set up to help them. Forcing a special needs child into an unfamiliar environment cannot be the best way to deal with his needs.

In addition, it deprives fit parents of the privilege of raising their children. Family support is necessary to deal with these difficult circumstances. Attempts should be made to strengthen families rather than tear them apart. State legislatures should be encouraged to explore alternatives to custody relinquishment and strengthen the mental health care system so that families are not forced to give up their children in order to help them.

Contact Other CRC Members by E-mail

Send and receive e-mail from other CRC members around the country.

If you are a CRC member, e-mail the following message to Harry Prillaman, CRC Coordinator for Georgia, who is supervising this service. He can be reached at ppilla@us.ibm.com

Dear Harry. I am a national CRC member who would like to join the crc-general@egroups.com distribution list.

Thanks,

Your name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address

Call the CRC national office at 202-547-6227 or fax 202-546-4272 to make sure your national membership is current.

2000 Awards

Entertainer Joe Piscopo highlighted the 5th annual Awards Dinner sponsored by the New Jersey Council for Children's Rights (NJCCR) at the Mayfair Farms, November 14, 2000.

"The annual dinner serves as a break from our daily turmoil, celebrates our hard-won victories, and honors those people who have helped us in our struggles," said chapter president Eric Purasoon.

2000 award recipients were:

- Senators Louis C. Bassano and Anthony R. Bucco, sponsores of S-1095, the New Jersey presumption of joint custody bill;
- Douglas Hyatt, NJCCR board member and editor of the NJCCR newsletter, *The Children's Advocate;*
- Robert Kowal, past executive Vice-President of NJCCR, and leading member of the NCJJR pro se network;
- CRC President David L. Levy;
- Serge Prengel, author of the book *Still a Dad.*

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In the Courts

Shared Parenting in Massachusetts

A divorced couple will rotate custody of their son under an Appeals Court ruling that eliminates what the father's lawyer called the notion of a main parent and a visiting one.

Under the unusual arrangement, Ippolita Freedman will have son Alex, 7, during the school week for one year, and Roger Freedman will have him on weekends. The next year, they'll switch. The rotation will continue as the boy grows up.

"Our hope is that this ruling shows a trend toward really focusing on the needs of the children," said lawyer Elizabeth Lewis, who represented Roger Freedman. "Every child has a right to equal access to the parent, unless there is something wrong with the parent."

Both parents had asked for sole custody. The state Probate and Family Court crafted the rotating custody plan, and the mother appealed.

Judge Rudolph Kass, writing for the appeals court, upheld the lower court ruling, but acknowledged potential problems, if one parent moves.

James DeGiacomo, the mother's lawyer, said his client is concerned that the decision will limit her career.

"It wasn't in the best interest of the child," DeGiacomo told the Boston Globe. "When a parent is unsettled, that has to have an impact."

Roger Freedman, 49, lives in Wessley. Ippolita Freedman, 30, lives in Brookline, a few minutes away. The boy will attend the same school regardless of where he is living.

Note: Steve Carrier, of CRC of Massachusetts, who brought this case to CRC's attention, said "The decision is significant, considering that only 6 percent of children in Massachusetts enjoy the benefits of shared physical custody."

Carrier said Attorney Elizabeth Lewis is a member of CRC, and is also a spokeswoman for CRC of Massachusetts. "Elizabeth truly believes in the motto of CRC—The Best Parent is Both Parents."

To help CRC of Mass, call 508-347-5960 or e-mail CRCMass@aol.com

Freedman V. Freedman, Mass. App. Ct., No 98-P-1399, 6/27/00, Lawyers Weekly No. 11-134-00, or page 28 M.L.W. 2555, July 10, 2000.

Federal Role in Financial Child Support Enforcement

The federal government has no constitutional authority to pursue criminal charges against parents who owe financial support but live in another state, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit said in a Sept. 26 decision. The Court of Appeals was considering a case involving the arrest of a father in California by U.S. marshals, on the basis that he violated the federal Child Support Recovery Act of 1994 by failing to pay financial child support to the mother of his child, who lived in Michigan.

The Court of Appeals said that the Child Support Recovery Act was "not a proper exercise of Congress's power to regulate interstate commerce." Congress's power to regulate interstate commerce is an inadequate basis for the Act, the court said, because the activity criminalized by the Act "is not commercial in nature." The U.S. Supreme Court already has warned in a recent case against overly elastic interpretations of the Commerce Clause. The Supreme Court said that even though "the aggregate effect of marriage, divorce, and childrearing on the national economy is undoubtedly significant," this does not mean the Commerce Clause applies." the Appeals Court noted.

U.S. v. Faasse, U.S. 6th Cir. Ct of App., No. 98-2337, 9/25/00

Modification of Joint Custody

A parent seeking modification of a joint custody award is not required, as a threshold before he or she may proceed, to prove an inability by the parents to cooperate concerning their child's welfare, the Kentucky Court of Appeals ruled June 23. The case involved a situation where the parents had joint custody of their five-year-old son, with the mother designated as the child's primary caretaker, although the child subsequently spent more time in the father's home. The mother remarried, and planned to move to Georgia. The father then sought either custody, or to be named as the child's primary caretaker. The trial court denied his motion because he had failed to prove that the parties were unable to cooperate in the joint custody arrangement, as required under the precedent of an earlier case. However, the Court of Appeals said the earlier case involved a court exceeding its judicial authority, since there was no threshold requirement in the statute. It allowed consideration of a possible modification of custody.

Scheer v. Zeigler (Scheer),

Ky. Ct. App., No. 1998-CA-002017-MR, 6/23/00

Time Spent With Noncustodial Parent

An automatic deviation from state child support guidelines is not warranted solely as a result of the amount of time that a child spends with a noncustodial parent, the Louisiana Supreme Court decided March 24. The court found that the noncustodial parent must show that the extra time the child is with him results in a greater financial burden on him and a lesser burden on the parent. In the case before the Supreme Court, there was joint legal custody, the mother was the primary domiciliary parent, and the father had extensive visitation.

The trial court granted the father's request for modification of child support, and reduced the amount by 30 percent to reflect the 37 percent of the time the children spent with him under the visitation schedule. Shared custody is more expensive than traditional arrangements, the Supreme Court said, and courts must ensure that any deviation from the guidelines will not result in the domiciliary parent's inability to provide adequately for the child. The Supreme Court said the lower court

should have considered whether application of the guidelines in this particular case would not be in the child's best interest or would be inequitable to the parties.

Guillot v. Munn, La., No. 99-C2132, 32400.

Father's Rights in Adoption

A man who brought a paternity suit, upon finding out that his ex-girlfriend had given birth to their child six months earlier, acted too late to defeat the child's adoption, the Indiana Court of Appeals ruled Aug. 30. The promptness of a paternity claim is measured in terms of the child's life, and not by the time at which the father became aware of the child's existence, the Court of Appeals said. The father's action was barred by time limits in the state's Putative Father Registry statute, the court said. Under the statute, a father who registers with the Putative Father Registry no later than 30 days after his child's birth or the date of filing of the adoption petition, whichever occurs last, is entitled to notice of his child's adoption.

Jones v. Maple (In re Baby Doe), Ind. Ct. App., No. 16A01-0001-JV-35, 8/30/00

With exception of the first case, the above court decisions are summarized from Family Law Reporter, published by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. They appear here by permission of the publisher.

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Fall, 2000 CRC Intern Abraham Perez, University of California at Santa Barbara, helped CRC write 5 grant proposals for funding.

Upcoming Event

Fatherhood Conference

The International Fatherhood Conference 2001, sponsored by NPCL (The National Center for Strategic Non-Profit Planning and Community Leadership), will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, May 28-30, 2991, at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, 1-800-325-3535. The theme is: The Formation of Fatherhood. For conference information, contact Charlene Meeks or Jacqueline Ratley at NPCL, phone 202-822-6725. NPCL is the largest national group working to help never-married parents, but all parents and professionals working with families will gain information and contacts.

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The Quarterly Newsletter of the Children's Rights Council, Inc.
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The Myth of The Fading Family

by E.J. Dionne Jr.
Washington Post columnist
Reprinted with permission from the Washington Post, Tuesday, May 22, 2001

E. J. Dionne, Jr. says Census Bureau finds 70 Percent of Families with Children are Headed by a Couple Rather than by a Single Parent

You would think from reading the headlines that the mom-and-dad-and-kids family is in a state of total collapse in America. Those headlines are based on accurate reporting of certain data from the 2000 Census.

But the headlines are wrong. The two-parent family is still the norm in America.

Among households with children, according to the new Census Bureau figures, 71.8% are led by married couples. That's down from 76.1% a decade ago, and 93% in 1960. So, yes, the two-parent family has had its problems in the past 40 years. But if a household includes children, the odds are nearly 3 to 1 that it will be led by a couple rather than a single parent.

And the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey offers evidence that the decline of the two-parent family stopped in the mid-1990s. That is big, underreported–and heartening–news, especially if it is confirmed in the coming years.

Between 1990 and 1996, there was a continuing decline in the proportion of households with

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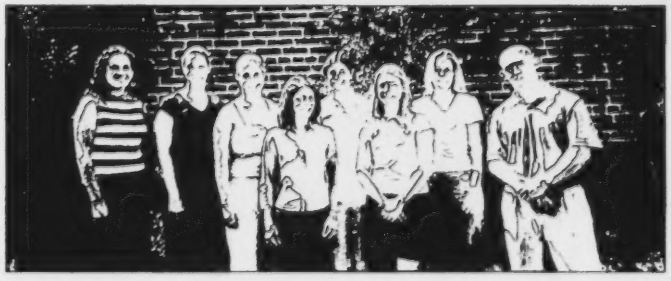
Summer 2001 CRC College Student Interns



(l to r) Eleanor Zandstein, Susanne Bielaski, Natalia Swalnick, Jessica Brooks, Samantha Shapiro, Katherine Potter, Kelli Lydon, Ron Varga. Intern Patricia Lopez is seated at right.

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"Speak Out for Children" is published by the Children's Rights Council, Inc. Editor: David L. Levy. Contributors to this issue: Julie Maggiacomo, Al Ellis, Paul Robinson, Ken Skilling, and college student interns Susanne Bielaski, Columbus School of Law at Catholic University; Jessica Brooks, Washington University in St. Louis, Patrica Lopez, University of California at Davis; Kelli Lydon, St. Mary's College; Katherine Potter, University of New Hampshire; Samantha Shapiro, University of Central Florida; Natalia Swalnick, Syracuse University; Ron Varga, Bethany College; Eleanor Zandstein, University of Connecticut, wh is an Israeli. Layout by Sheila Holzberger.

CRC is a member of

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The CRC

The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is an international, non-profit IRS 501 (c) (3) children's rights organization, based in Washington, D.C.

Mission

- The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is an international non-profit organization committed to the loving, nurturing, protecting and education of children through both parents and extended family.
- CRC is dedicated to helping children by promoting family formation, shared parenting, mediation, parent education, and mitigating the effects of divorce and relationship breakups of children and parents.

Vision

- CRC's vision is a society where both parents play a significant parenting role in their children's lives. Children need grandparents, step-parents, and others who are part of the family fabric, working as a team.
- CRC envisions a society where laws, attitudes, and public opinon affirm that for children, **"The Best Parent is Both Parents."**

Formed in 1985 by concerned parents who had more than 40 years collective experience in custody reform and early childhood education, CRC has chapters in 32 states and four national affiliate organizations: Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC), The Stepfamily Association of America (SAA), COMAMAS, and Parenting Coalition International, Inc.

Prominent professionals in the fields of religion, law, social work, psychology, child care, education, business, and government comprise our Family Advisory Board.

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Fading Family

Continued from page 1

children headed by couples. But there has been no decline since then. In fact, between 1999 and 2000, there was a modest, though perhaps statistically insignificant, increase in the proportion of households with children headed by two parents.

"When you look at just two points in time," says Jason Fields, a family demographer in the Census Bureau's population division, referring to 1990 and 2000, "you miss the fact that the trends have leveled off in the late 1990s. The increase in single-mother families has really leveled off. Divorce has really leveled off."

How does this square with what you've been reading and hearing? Among the typical headlines that turn up in a Web search of newspapers and broadcasts: "Is the Traditional American Family Heading towards Extinction?" and a cover line on Newsweek read "Why the Traditional Family is Fading Fast."

Most of these stories focus on the decline in the proportion of all households that consist of two parents with children. Here are the numbers:

- In 1960, 45% of American households consisted of married couples with kids.
- In 1970, the proportion dropped to 38.8%
- In 1980, it was down to 30.8%
- In 1990, it was 25.6%.
- In 2000, it was 23.5%.

The much repeated line, entirely true, is that for the first time, married-couples-with-kids families represent less than a quarter of all American Households.

But notice a few things about these numbers. First, the married-couples-with-kids homes did not constitute a majority of households even in 1960, the age of "Ozzie and Harriet" and "Fathers knows Best." That's because kids grow up and move out. Our grandparents, if they lived long enough, knew what it felt like to be "empty-nesters."

Second, the big declines in the proportion of households made up of married couples with kids had already occurred by 1990. The decline in the past ten years is quite modest.

People Live Longer – Many Households Don't Have Children

Third, part of the decline in mom-and-dad-and-kids households as a proportion of the whole has to do with the fact that people are living longer. There are not a lot of people over 65 whose kids still live with them. This fact of life has nothing to do with the "decline of the family." My mother-in-law, one of the most family-oriented people I know, lives in an apartment upstairs from one of her sons. Yet the word "household" would be counted against the family, because technically, she lives alone.

None of this should diminish our concern for the difficulties faced by children in single-parent households. You don't have to be a conservative to believe that on the whole, two parents are far better than one. As Jonathan Rauch argues in the current issue of National Journal, "children raised in single parent homes are at greater risk of poverty, school dropout, delinquency, teen pregnancy and adult joblessness." We can debate how to help those kids, but we shouldn't let ideology blind us to their problems.

But it would also be wrong if ideology led us to exaggerate the problem with the family in America. If the family has begun to come back together, at least a little bit we need to figure out why, and how to nurture the forces making it happen.

It makes better copy and probably boosts talk-show ratings to say that the two-parent family is going the way of the Oldsmobile. The happier but more prosaic truth is that while the family does face large new challenges, most Americans still believe that kids need two parents. And most of them still try hard to behave as they believe.

Behavior of Real-Life Dennis the Menace was not Tolerated

from The Washington Post, June 1, 2001

Ketcham Father (pictured here) and Son Never Close After Parents Sent Son to Boarding School

Hank Ketcham, 81, who first drew "Dennis the Menace" fifty years ago died May 31 at his home in California. Dennis was modeled after Ketcham's first son, who was talented at getting in trouble often with his ever present slingshot. "Mischief just seemed to follow wherever Dennis appears, but it is the product of good intentions, misdirected helpfulness, good hearted generosity and, possibly, an overactive thyroid," Mr. Ketcham wrote in his 1990 autobiography, "The Merchant of Dennis the Menace".

In real life, however, Mr. Ketcham was estranged from the son on whom the cartoon was based. On an autumn day in 1950, while Ketcham was working on a drawing, his young son Dennis dismantled his bedroom, down to the mattress, springs and curtain rods. Dennis's frustrated mother declared her son a "menace" and a cartoon was inspired.

The behavior of the real-life Dennis was not tolerated, and the Ketchams sent him off to a boarding school. The son and father were never close again.

"Dennis has been out of my life for a number of years", Mr. Ketcham said a while ago. "it's regrettable - there's no communication. it's just one of those things..."

The CRC View

by David L. Levy, J.D.
President, CRC

June 28, 2001

The Honorable Wally Herger
Chairman, Human Resources Subcommittee
House Ways and Means Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hearing on Child Support and Fatherhood Proposals
Statement from David L. Levy, J.D., President, CRC
on behalf of the Children's Rights Council

Our Children's Rights Council has been involved in proposals to strengthen families since 1985. Our proposals have led to legislative reform (including the first ever block grants to the states to promote child access/visitation to non-custodial parents), and greater awareness, through 13 CRC conferences, evaluation of data, and reports on why, for children, generally, "The Best Parent is Both Parents." Our chapters in 32 states, Washington, D.C., Europe, Asia and Africa, have also been the catalyst for improvements in children's lives.

In announcing the hearing, Chairman Herger, you said that "We also will learn more about current proposals to enhance the role of fathers in their children's lives."

The Children's Rights Council suggests the following:

1) A recognition that just as there are "deadbroke dads," there are also "deadbolted dads," a term coined by noted author Gail Sheehy in a *New York* Times article June 21, 1998.

"The newer reality is the Deadbolted Dad – locked out of his children's hearts after divorce...," said Sheehy, with "little attention paid to enforcing or honoring their visitation rights." Some of these parents walk-away from their children, but as Sheehy stated, many are deadbolted out. Many divorced mothers are deadbolted out, as well.

CRC believes that much of this disconnect between children and previously involved married parents occurs within 2 to 3 years after the divorce, just as many never-married parents disconnect from each other a few years after the birth of the child.

Remedy: An understanding of what "deadbolted dads" (and moms) means, coupled with an expansion of federal funds for mediation, counseling and other low-cost programs to promote access of children to their non-custodial parents.

$10 million a year was provided in the 1996 Welfare Reform Act for access/visitation programs, and because these activities have operated for the past four years, a total of $40 million has been spent in the states for these access programs. Each state receives about $185,000 a year, the largest federal program to date to encourage contact between children and non-custodial parents.

And don't forget that there are nearly 3 million non-custodial mothers, many of whom (like many dads) are deadbolted out of their children's lives, unable to make phone or personal contact, access (visitation) interfered with or denied, the custodial parent moves far away with the child, a child is given denigrating messages by one parent against the other parent, etc.

2) A recognition that the states with the highest amount of shared parenting (including Montana, Kansas and Connecticut) *subsequently* had the lowest divorce rate. See data from the National Center for Health Statistics and the Census Bureau first reported by CRC in the Children's Rights Council newsletter, "Speak Out for Children," Vol. 12, No. 4, Fall 1997/Winter 1998 issue, available from CRC; later cited in the Indiana Law Journal, Spring 1998, Vol. 73, No. 2, by Margaret Brinig and F. Buckley, law professors at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.

Shared parenting (joint physical custody) is defined by researchers as at least 1/3 of the time spent between a child and a parent on a year round basis. The knowledge that parents will have to continue to be involved with each other for the sake of the child is apparently the inducement that enables some parents to avoid divorce in the years following the liberal awarding of shared parenting in their state.

One of the first acts of President Bush when he became governor of Texas was to sign a presumptive joint custody law on June 16, 1995 (see Vol. 10, No. 3 of "Speak Out for Children.")

One of the remedies to help reduce the number of divorces and to increase financial child support compliance:

Increase contact between children and their non-custodial moms and dads. Federal government data has shown a correlation between financial and emotional child support.

3) A recognition that "Safe Haven" Child Access Centers are helping children and families.

When parents appear before a judge, they sometimes disagree as to whether access (visitation) has taken place or not. So the judge will order the transfer at a "Safe Haven" if one

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Shared Parenting – It Makes Sense

Theme for CRC's 13th National Conference May 4-6, 2001

Child and family advocates, researchers, writers, teachers, lawyers, judges and other individuals from more than 30 states, Great Britain, Canada, Bermuda and Iceland, attended CRC's 13th national conference May 3-6, 2001, at the Holiday Inn, Bethesda, Maryland.

More than half the people had attended past conferences, so it was a kind of a friendly "reunion time" for them, and an opportunity to meet new people working on family issues. Featured themes of the 3 day conference included Parental Alienation of Children, Parenting After Divorce, Support Networks for Children and Families, Access Transfer Centers for Children, Research Developments, and New Policies and Initiatives.

Audiotapes were made of all the sessions. See the list of audiotapes later in this issue. If you couldn't attend the conference, audiotapes are a area a good way to find out about various topics. Even if you attended the conferences, tapes can refresh your memory of important points.

Entertainment at the conference was provided by Ernie Ashworth, member of the Grand Ole Opry, and Hadassah Luther, age 13, CRC's first ever child spokesperson.

Ernie sang his 1966 Number 1 Country Hit, "Talk Back Trembling Lips" and Hadassah sang the new CRC song, "Hear the Cries of the Children."

CRC thanks Mark Roseman, conference coordinator; Barbara Steinberg, Ph.D., speaker faculty coordinator; Cliff Clark, conference liaison, and all the people who assisted in carrying out this conference.

Some Conference Presentations

(More presentations will appear in the next issue of this newsletter).

Call Us Stepfamilies, not Blended Families

by Margorie Engel, Ph.D.
President, Stepfamily Association of America

Margorie Engel says Stepfamilies do not Blend, They 'Combine' or 'Fold Gently'

As a general rule, the term stepfamily is preferred because it is consistent with the naming of all other family types. All other family types are defined by the parent-child relationship (e.g. biological, foster, adoptive, single parent).

Because the choice of stepfamily (and any step attribution) is seen by some as negative (the wicked stepmother treated poorly as a stepchild, etc.), SAA and stepfamilies hope that, through education, the term stepfamily will acquire a positive, or at the very least, a neutral connotation.

Referring to stepfamilies as blended families is troublesome to stepfamilies and the professionals who work with them. It is a catchy media phrase that does not describe either a family relationship or what happens when at least one partner to a marriage brings children from a prior relationship (marriage ended by death or choice of an unwed parent).

Stepfamilies do not "blend." If one is determined to use a cooking phrase, try "combine" or "fold gently." Children in stepfamilies do not lose their individuality or their connection and active attachment to the parent who is not part of the remarriage of mother or father. A stepfamily does not recreate a first family (i.e. blend into something entirely new with all prior connections severed and the former existence obliterated) and therapists have learned (and research confirms) that when stepfamilies expect to "blend," they are typically doomed to failure, because this is an unreal expectation.

Children actively balk at inferences that the stepfamily is to be considered their new family eligible to demand their full attention and loyalty. They know they have divided loyalties. Consider the confusion when both parents remarry and the child is expected to be a full-time member of TWO "blended" families.

Parents must accept the reality that their children have lots of "parents" now and the nurturing no longer comes from a traditional family structure, instead of trying to blend everyone.

It seems far better to help all individuals to understand the nature of the extended and expanded family with various segments having permeable boundaries. It is not helpful to anyone in a stepfamily to pretend that they are blended. The concept itself precludes working together with the expanded family members, and it is by working together that we create successful stepfamilies.

Three Frequently Forgotten but Necessary Elements of Non-Profit Fundraising

(but only if you want to be a success!)

by Kevin Gallagher,
former Director of Development, the Heritage Foundation, who is now assisting CRC in Development.

Gallagher Proposes Ways to Raise Funds

1) The number one motivation for giving is a belief in the cause.

You have to make sure that your hoped for donor, whether a foundation, a corporation, or individual is on-board with who you are and what you do or provide. You cannot assume that they already know this. They only know what you tell them. Your accomplishments and accolades are worthless if you don't let each donor, or possible donor, know of them. You must prudently prove that your organization is doing good work, that it is worthy of their funding. Just because they are known to be of means, does not mean that they will fund you, even if you are a good cause. The very fact that they are of substantial "means" typically means that they make responsible and wise decisions in their business worlds. Logically, this mentality carries over into their philanthropic interests, as well.

To get their support, you have to market yourself, time and time again, as an organization with a product or service that they will delight in. It means that you must educate them. You must take them from knowledge of a good cause to believe in this good cause. Without question this is a time-consuming work. You must be on-board for the long-haul. (It is certainly a big help when the organization officers/developers are secondarily fundraisers and first and foremost convinced believers in the organization's cause!)

You must have a good cause, be productive in bringing about that cause, and you must communicate that productivity to your donors and possible donors. And watch the fine line between the presumptuousness that tells them you are doing it all for the false humility that causes you to say nothing about your accomplishments. Possible donors are intelligent and can see right through us. Remember the definition of humility is "the truth before God."

2) You need to treat donors, or possible donors, with respect.

Without respect, even if they believe in your cause, they will find another organization that is doing similar work and fund it. They are not walking checkbooks, but are partners in a common mission. Clearly this leads to the third point, which says relationships matter.

3) Relationships matter.

I don't have a checklist of 10 things to do each day to build donor relations, for it is more of an attitude. The two words that do come to mind are friendship and communication. Friendships are hard work because they demand communication. Developing relationships with donors is hard work as well, for they are those new friends with which we need to communicate.

Reflection shows that these two words should bring about a wealth of information, particularly when studies show that as high as 80% of annual dollar increases for an organization come from previous donors.

Extended Overnights

Continued from page 4

exists, or possibly at a police station if one does not exist. CRC operates 14 "Safe Haven" Child transfer Centers in 6 states and Washington, D.C. They are located in church day care centers. At the sites, parents peacefully transfer their children from one parent to another for the weekend.

Some children are seeing their parents for the first time because of these sites. Even if CRC does not have a grant to manage a particular site, we do not charge the parents. We do not believe a parent should have to pay to see his or her child. A surprising 40 percent of parents who use these sites are women, and about 40 percent are never-married parents. The churches often provide the monitors, but any grant is supervised by CRC. Supervision of the grant by CRC insulates the church from direct funding by the government, but the church helps to deliver the family services. Some sites are developing parent education components.

Remedy: Again, expand the access/visitation block grants to the states to $40 million a year; also provide funds in the "Fatherhood" bills to provide services such as these.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

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Welfare Reform

by Ron Haskins (conference presenter), Isabel Sawhill, and Kent Weaver

Haskins: Welfare Reform has Led to More Jobs and Less Family Poverty

Welfare Reform, An Overview of Effects to Date

Executive Summary

The 1996 welfare law produced numerous, wide-ranging changes in state policies and practices. Greater emphasis is now being given to job placement in welfare offices in most states. Employment by single mothers, a group which in the past has been the least likely to work and the most likely to be on welfare, is on the rise. Increased employment has led to higher earnings and declining welfare payments to poor and low-income families.

Similarly, starting in 1994, there have been substantial declines in overall child poverty and the largest declines ever in black child poverty. In addition, after increasing for decades, nonmarital births have leveled off; and teen births have declined significantly since the early 1990s. Although the evidence of the law's impact on children is sparse, most researchers conclude that for young children, the results are either neutral or slightly positive in areas such as school behavior and school performance. Some of the good news must be attributed to a strong economy.

Moreover, the research shows that there are problems associated with welfare reform. For example, some unemployed families are financially worse off and some families who are eligible for Medicaid and food stamps are losing those benefits when they leave welfare rolls. These and other problems merit careful attention and possibly action by the 107th Congress during the upcoming reauthorization debate.

Welfare Reform Reauthorization: An Overview of Problems and Issues

Executive Summary

Although the 1996 welfare reform legislation has produced a number of positive outcomes, there are serious issues facing the 107th Congress as it prepares to reauthorize the legislation by October 1, 2002. This policy brief discusses 13 important issues associated with the legislation and the controversy surrounding each of them. The issues include: funding of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, and whether states will retain the level of funding and flexibility in program design and operation they currently enjoy; the growing concern that some families are worse off as a result of sanctions or time limits, because they failed to find or retain jobs after leaving welfare; and the concern that too many children are being reared by single mothers. Also at issue for the new Congress is whether there is enough money for child care, if more assistance should be provided to working poor families, and whether more should be done to help mothers qualify for better jobs.

For more information, contact Haskins at the Brookings Institute, Washington, D.C.

Own Your Own Ernie Ashworth CD

Ernie Ashworth and Friends
Ernie & Bettye Ashworth
Member of the Grand Ole Opry
Sing Out For The Children's Rights Council

What beautiful music! Order the CD "Ernie Ashworth and Friends Sing Out for CRC," and if you are not completely satisfied, we will refund your money.

The CD's are only $12 each, including S/H.

Order one for your friends and relatives. They make a delightful gift!

Copies of the CD may be ordered online at www.gocrc.com, or by writing to the national CRC office at 300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002. Bulk orders of 6 or more CD's are $10 per CD, including S/H.

For more information about the CD, contact Keith Bradford, owner of KMA Records, 256 East Old Hickory Kitty Wells Blvd, Madison, TN 37115, phone (615) 612-3899, or www.KMArecords.com

Additional information may also be obtained from David Courson, coordinator, CRC of Tennessee, at www.TNcrc.com, or email to Office@TNcrc.com

Would you like to help sponsor a Grand Ole Opry country music bus tour that will visit your city? The "bus" will include Grand Ole Opry member Ernie Ashworth, 13-year-old child singer Hadassah Luther and other rising country stars. Contact CRC for information.

British Embassy Benefit Reception for CRC

The British Ambassador to the U.S. Sir Christopher Meyer, and his wife, Catherine Meyer, sponsored a benefit reception for CRC at the British Embassy Residence and Gardens the evening of May 3.

Attendees strolled in the lovely Embassy Residence Gardens and mingled in the stately Mansion rooms. "It was a very diverse audience and a wonderful opportunity for CRC. It showed that people from many backgrounds have a common interest in some of the important issues affecting children," said CRC Board Chairman John L. Bauserman, Jr.

"CRC thanks the Ambassador and Lady Meyer, and Mrs. Willee Lewis, a friend of Lady Meyer's, for this event," said CRC President David L. Levy. The Ambassador, Lady Meyer, Lewis, and Levy, all spoke at the reception.

Hadassah Luther sang "Hear the Cries of the Children."

About 200 people attended; some were from the CRC conference which began that day, and others were representatives of Washington media, politics, society and philanthropy. They included members of the Sarnoff, Cafritz, Gildenhorn, Ourisman, Pillsbury, and Folger families, former Washington Post Executive Editor Ben Bradlee and his wife writer Sally Quinn, and Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

A number of prominent individuals took part in sponsorship of the Benefit.

Below is a copy of the invitation to the Embassy reception that was mailed to more than 1,200 people prior to the event.

CRC is grateful to conference sponsors: The Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Freddie Mac Foundation.

We thank Bladen Lithographics in Gaithersburg, MD for providing printing services to CRC.

Willee Lewis, Catherine Meyer, David L. Levy (l to r) at British Embassy Reception for CRC

The British Ambassador and Lady Meyer
and the Children's Rights Council
request the pleasure of your company
at a Reception to benefit the Children's Rights Council
on Thursday, 3rd May, 2001
6 - 8 o'clock

R.S.V.P.
By enclosed card
Guest List at Door

The Ambassador's Residence
3100 Massachusetts Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dress: Business Attire

Parking available in the Embassy Compound

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Children's Rights Council is an international non-profit children's organization now in its 16th year. CRC has chapters in 32 states, Washington D.C., Europe, Asia and Africa. CRC works to ensure that children have access to their two parents and their extended family. If parents are separated, divorced, or never-married, CRC operates 'Safe Havens' in day care centers, where children are transferred between parents for the weekend, by court-order. CRC offers parent education, information, and works to prevent parental kidnapping of children. Our phone number is 202/547-6227. See our websites at www.gocrc.com and www.info4parents.com

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Willee Lewis, co-chair

Members of Congress
The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
The Honorable Trent Lott
The Honorable Gordon Smith
The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
The Honorable Sherwood Boehlert
The Honorable Ben Cardin
The Honorable Jane Harman
The Honorable Steny Hoyer
The Honorable Nancy Johnson
The Honorable Clay Shaw
The Honorable Albert Wynn
The Honorable C. Boyden Gray
The Honorable Jane Sloat
The Honorable Lee H. Hamilton
The Honorable Richard Riley
The Honorable Donna Shalala
The Honorable Judge David Gray Ross
Ms. Eloise Anderson
Ms. Susan Hurley DeConcini

The Benefit Committee

Susan Hurley Bennett
Susan Eisenhower
Amy Gerson
Connie Carter Lawson
Nancy Rubin
Margaret Cole
Sydney McNiff Ferguson
Alma Gildenhorn
Mary Ourisman
Aniko Gaal Schott
Cate Maginnis Wyatt
Esther Coopersmith
Nancy M. Folger
Cynthia Jones
Nina Pillsbury
Cathy Stephen

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Conference Awards

At the conference, CRC presented awards. They are:

A 2001 Best in Media Award to CBS Evening News, **Jim Stewart, correspondent and Mark Katkov, producer** for the two-part series on Alternatives to Divorce Litigation January 22-23. Mr. Stewart accepted the award on behalf of CBS Evening News. It was noted that CBS Evening News and 60 Minutes, a CBS News Presentation, have also covered other topics of concern to CRC, including the damage that international parental kidnapping does to children.

Ron Henry, Advocate

Third Annual *Sonny Burmeister Child Advocacy Lifetime Achievement Award* to **Ronald K. Henry,** for service to children and families in separation and divorce. Henry is a partner in the Washington, D.C. law firm of Kaye, Scholer, Fierman, Hays and Handler; member, American Law Institute; and Advisor, National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. Ron has helped many custody law reform advocates across the country.

The first Sonny Burmeister award had previously gone to Candace Schooley, long time friend of Sonny, in his name; the second Sonny Burmeister award went to CRC President David L. Levy.

Award Presented in name of late child advocate Sonny Burmeister

Sonny had been the engaging, resourceful, head of CRC of Georgia before his accidental death in February, 1996. He would reach out to people all cross the country who needed help. He also evaluated research. It was Burmeister who in a survey of Census Bureau data in 1994 discovered that there was an inverse ratio between family and poverty; that is, the states with the highest number of two parent families, had the lowest poverty rate. CRC has distributed that data to policymakers ever since Burmeister uncovered the information.

Ernie and Bettye Ashworth

A *2001 Child Advocacy Award* to **Ernie Ashworth,** member, Grand Ole Opry, and **Bettye Ashworth,** Grandparent Spokespersons for the Children's Rights Council

Hadassah Luther

A *2001 Child Advocacy Award* to **Hadassah Luther**, the Children's Rights Council's first-ever Child Spokesperson

A *2001 Best in Media Award* to **Channel 11, Toledo, Ohio,** for being a friend to Children and the Children's Rights Council by publicizing The Gift Exchange Child Safety Center in Toledo

Receives Best in Media Award

A *2001 Best in Media Award* to **Jerry Anderson,** Anchorman, Channel 11 Toledo, Ohio for being a friend to Children and the Children's Rights Council by publicizing The Gift Exchange Child Safety Center in Toledo

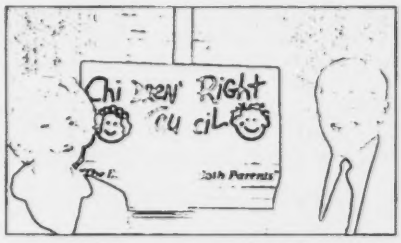
A *2001 Child Advocacy Award to Nancy Beals*, Connecticut State Representative, for supporting children and the Children's Rights Council

Wins Volunteer Award

A *2001 Volunteer of the Year Award* to **Mark Inzetta,** J.D., for outstanding work with the Children's Rights Council of Ohio on behalf of children and families

Kat Cooper Wins Parenting Award

A *2001 Best in Parenting Award*, to **Kat Cooper,** Director, Maricopa County, Arizona, for its Educational Video Project Entitled "Family Ties and Knots"



Lyn and Bill Huerter Pioneers in Helping Families

A Lifelong Achievement Award to **Lyn and Bill Huerter,** pioneers in helping children and parents, and for maintaining CRC of Nebraska/Iowa, which has for several years been the largest of the Children's Rights Council's 38 chapters

Meyer Publicizes Plight of Kidnapped Children

An *International Child Advocacy Award* to **Catherine Meyer,** CRC's Honorary President, for leadership in publicizing the needs of children in the U.S. and around the world

Continued on page 10

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Conference Awards

Continued from page 9

Robinson has helped CRC for 16 years

A *2001 Volunteer of the Year Award* to **Paul M. Robinson,** for dedication to the cause of children and families, and for helping the Children's Rights Council in many ways for 16 years

Kuckes Publicizes Information for Parents in Minnesota

A *2001 Volunteer of the Year Award* to **Walter M. Kuckes,** for dedication to children and families in Minnesota by obtaining state-wide availability of important court-approved access (visitation) information

CRC held a press conference on Capitol Hill July 25 honoring 7 states for the Best State Initiatives Helping Children and Families.

See our website at www.gocrc.com or the next issue of "Speak Out for Children" for details.

Book Nook

Run to the Sun

by Robert Davé

370 pages, softback, published by Lost Coast Press, $17. ISBN 1-882897-59-5. Available from CRC (see book catalog elsewhere in this issue).

For fans of John LeCarre or other writers of adventure/suspense/intrigue, you will love *Run to the Sun.* Not only is the book exceptionally well written, but custody and access problems form the core reason as to why the action and suspense take place.

Never before has CRC seen a custody dispute placed in the context of a suspense novel. It is an ingenious way to introduce readers who would normally never read a custody book to learn about the topic within the context of a fast-paced novel. The book is a page-turner!

Psychologist Michael Santorini lives in beautiful Hawaii, but there's plenty of trouble in paradise. Santorini and his estranged wife Mona are battling for custody of their young son and daughter. When Mona kidnaps the children and flees to San Francisco, the furious Michael follows, unaware that he's being stalked by a single-minded murderer. In an attack aimed at Michael, Mona is slain, and eyewitnesses place Michael at the scene, making him the prime suspect.

Santorini then goes underground with a close group of friends in order to unravel an international conspiracy of lies and secrets spanning epochs as well as continents.

Santorini recalls some of the horrors of this custody battle. One involves a custody evaluation. If you have ever been subject to an evaluation which was based on assumptions, unproven facts, and questionable data, you will love Chapter 7 - where Santorini's attorney demolishes evaluator "Large Marge." Marge had concluded that Santorini had not one, but two, personality disorders, based on her own flimsy assumptions. After the furious attorney cross-examination of Marge, the reader is left with the possibility that Marge will never again unjustifiably try to remove a caring parent from a child's life. Hired guns who will say *anything,* regardless of the truth — beware, suggests the author, who is a clinical and forensic psychologist practicing in Hawaii.

Robert Davé

The author is married, and lives in a stepfamily with the children ranging in age from eight to twenty-two.

One scene in the book is set at the 1993 CRC conference in Bethesda, Maryland. The author and his wife also attended the 13th national CRC conference in May, 2001.

In the interests of full disclosure, we must mention that the back cover of the book says that a portion of the proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to the Children's Rights Council.

Whether or not CRC receives any proceeds from sales, we would recommend the book anyway, because it is an ingenious way to educate suspense novel readers about the curse of an attempted "Parentectomy" — the removal of a loving parent from a child's life.

Call your local book store or library, and ask them to order the book! That's what some CRC people have done, and we have gotten several book stores and libraries to carry the book!

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This Child of Mine: A Therapist's Journey

by Martha Wakenshaw
Reviewed by Jessica Brooks, CRC Staffer

187 pages, paperback. $12.95. ISBN 0967473608. Harbinger Press.

Martha Wakenshaw's novel chronicles both her personal journey as an adult and a mother, and her professional journey as a child therapist. The stories Wakenshaw recounts of her patients–abused, neglected and traumatized children–are simply heartbreaking. Readers meet Jackson, Candy, Shelly and a host of other children who have suffered unthinkable traumas. These children are often classified as having "ODD," or Oppositional Defiant Disorder and shuffled through a complex and inefficient system of paperwork and red tape. They act out in their anger and pain, often hurting themselves and others. Wakenshaw attempts to understand the psyche behind her patients' actions, and provide them with what they crave most–love.

As an abused child herself, Wakenshaw can sympathetically follow her patients as they travel the road to recovery. In doing so, she discovers a need for healing deep within herself and begins searching for her own path to spiritual recovery. Overwhelmed by the pain of her own childhood and the sufferings of her patients, Wakenshaw fights to bring love and hope into the lives of all of her patients, as well as into her own life.

Despite the heartwrenching stories within the book, Wakenshaw retains an optimistic attitude towards her work. She never loses faith in the children she sees, or in the healing power of love. This simultaneously heartbreaking and uplifting book is written by a veteran psychotherapist who has worked as a child therapist for fifteen years.

Both books reviewed are available from CRC. See Catalog of Books in this Issue.

Connecticut CRC Celebrates Child's Day

CRC of Connecticut celebrated National Child's Day by sponsoring a New Haven Ravens baseball game at Yale University Baseball Field Sunday, May 3. The Ravens is a farm team for the St. Louis Cardinals, one of the popular regional and local baseball farm teams in the U.S.

Ms. Themis Klarides, a state representative supportive of CRC of Connecticut, threw out the first ball, Hadassah Luther sang the national anthem, and "Take Me Out to the Ball game."

"It was a terrific day. More than 2,000 people watched the game," said John Kristoff, CRC program director. CRC raffled box seats and a baseball bat signed by all the team members, with proceeds to CRC of Connecticut.

"This was a day to make people aware of the need to recognize children's needs," said Mark Roseman, CRC Connecticut Coordinator.

The Connecticut chapter also planned to hold a free Family Day Picnic August 12, at the Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center, Ansonia, CT, with live folk music.

Advertisement

Kids In the Middle®

121 West Monroe Avenue St. Louis, MO 63122
16141 Swingley Ridge Road, Suite 106 Chesterfield, MO 63017
314/909-9922 ◦ 314/909-1831 fax
kitm@stlmo.com ◦ www.stlmo.com

MISSION STATEMENT

Kids In the Middle's mission is to provide comprehensive, affordable therapy for children and their families who are experiencing the trauma of divorce, separation, remarriage, and other family transitions and to provide related educational and support programs to the community.

- Group and individual therapy for children ages 3-18
- Family therapy available
- Financial assistance based on sliding scale
- Workshops and support for parents
- School based programs available
- In-service training and workshops for community

Exh
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Conference Snapshots

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Children's Rights Council

2001 CATALOG OF RESOURCES

for parents and professionals

MANY BOOKS DISCOUNTED!
Buy at Discount and Sell Full Price to Your Group
Make $$$ or Give Copies to Educate Judges or Policymakers
Discounted Books Are in Bold Type

Book of the Month: *Run to the Sun* — A novel of Suspense, by Robert Davé, 2001.
The story of parental kidnapping, conspiracy and lies.

Special CRC CD
Ernie Ashworth and Friends: Sing Out For The Children's Rights Council

BOOKS FOR KIDS

A Heart Full of Love, written by Bette S. Margolis, illustrated by Christie L. Kline. A wonderful book for that special 7- to 9-year-old in your life who is undergoing parental divorce.
SB-101 ---------- $15.00

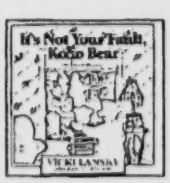
I Love You More Than..., by Elizabeth Hickey and James Cohen. Illustrated by Lynda Smart Brown, 1998.
HB-102 ---------- $16.95

Daddy Day, Daughter Day, by CNN's Larry King and Chaia King, 1997. A true story of divorce told through both a child's and a father's perspective.
SB-103 ---------- $12.95

How to Survive Your Parent's Divorce: Kids Advice to Kids, by Gayle Kimball, 1994. Easy-to-read one-of-a-kind guide for young people and their parents as they reshape their lives post-divorce.
SB-104 ..... Reg. $9.95 *Discount Price __ $4.00

I Think Divorce Stinks, by Marcia Lebowitz, 1992. Helps children recognize that it is appropriate to have negative feelings about divorce and to express those feelings.
SB-105 ---------- $4.95

What am I Doing in a Stepfamily?, by Claire Berman, 1994. A children's book explaining how two families can be better than one.
SB-106 ---------- $12.00



It's Not Your Fault, Koko Bear, by Vicki Lansky, 1998. Koko Bear can help children understand divorce and sends a good message.
SB-107 ---------- $5.99

The Divorce Workbook, by Sally Ives, David Fassler & Michelle Lasch, 1985. How to facilitate honest and open communication between adults and children at the traumatic time of separation and divorce. Q and A for kids.
SB-108 ---------- $15.95

My Book, My Self for Boys, by Linda Madaras and Area Madaras, 1995. The "What's Happening to My Body for Boys."
SB-109 ..... Reg. $11.95 *Discount Price __ $6.00

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

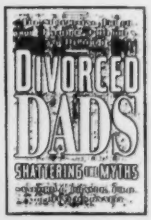
NEW!

The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce—A 25-Year Landmark Study, by Judith S. Wallerstein, Julia M. Lewis, and Sandra Blakeslee, 2000. The best-selling book that says many children of divorce suffer long-term effects from divorce.
SB-200 ---------- $24.95

50/50 Parenting, by Gayle Kimball, Ph.D. Almost 300 co-parents and 83 children report on life in married, divorced, and step-family situations.
SB-201 ---------- $9.95

Divorce Book for Parents, by Vicki Lansky, 1987. Warmly supportive and reassuring, this comprehensive guide speaks to all divorced and divorcing parents.
HB-203 ---------- $6.00

The Divorce Help Source Book, by Margorie Engel, 1994. Combines sound advice with hundreds of potential sources of help to assist you in getting the results you deserve.
SB-204 ..... Reg. $17.95 *Discount Price __ $7.00



Divorced Dads, Shattering the Myths, by Sanford L. Braver, Ph.D., 1998. The surprising truth about fathers, children and divorce.
HB-205 ---------- $24.95

For the Sake of the Children, by Kris Kline and Stephen Pew, 1992. Discusses how to share your children with your ex-spouse despite your anger. Kline is CRC's Florida co-ordinator. PHOTOCOPIES ONLY!
HB-206 ..... Reg. $18.95 *Discount Price __ $9.00

Divorce: Crisis, Challenge, or Relief?, by David A. Chiriboga and Linda S. Catron, 1991. Addresses the impact of divorce on children through different stages of their lives.
SB-207 ..... Reg. $22.50 *Discount Price __ $5.00

Why Parents Disagree: How Women and Men Parent Differently and How We Can Work Together, by Dr. Ron Taffel, 1994. An explanation of why parents begin to lead different lives and how parents can raise kids as partners, not enemies.
SB-208 ---------- $23.00

NEW!

This Child of Mine: A Therapist's Journey, by Martha Wakenshaw. Stories of abused and neglected children who are travelling the road to recovery. This book can help other abused children to recover.
HB-209 ---------- $12.95

A Hole in My Heart, by Claire Berman, 1991. A book that will enable adult children of divorce to recognize the role they play in changing patterns in their lives.
SB-210 ..... Reg. $10.00 *Discount Price __ $5.00

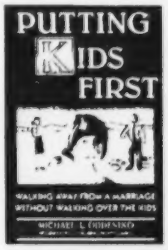
Families Apart, by Melinda Blau, 1993. 10 Keys to Successful Co-Parenting. A blend of the author's own research, and that of other experts, and rich in anecdotal information.
SB-211 ..... Reg. $22.95 *Discount Price _ $10.00

REVISED!

Mom's House, Dad's House, by Isolina Ricci, Ph.D., 1998. Making shared custody work: How parents can make two homes for their children after divorce. 100 **New** pages to this classic book!
SB-212 ---------- $20.00

Negotiating Love: How Women and Men Can Resolve Their Differences, by Riki Robbins Jones, 1995. Points out destructive habits by both sexes which, when realized, strengthen families and relationships.
SB-213 ---------- $14.00

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Surviving Divorce, by Paula Weintraub and Terry Hillman, 1996.
SB-214 ..... Reg. $16.95 *Discount Price __ $7.00



Putting Kids First, by Michael Oddenino. A must read for caring parents and professionals, by CRC's General Counsel. Includes a children's bill of rights.
SB-215 ---------- $9.95

Second Chances, by Judith Wallerstein and Sandra Blakeslee, 1989. Based on ten year longitudinal study of the effects of divorce on adults and children.
HB-216 ..... Reg. $14.95 *Discount Price __ $5.00

Surviving the Break-Up, How Children and Parents Cope with Divorce, by Judith Wallerstein, Ph.D. and Joan Kelly, Ph.D., 1980. A classic that is still valid in discussing the problems of children being raised by single parents.
SB-217 ..... Reg. $14.00 *Discount Price _ $10.00

REVISED!

Creating a Successful Parenting Plan, by Dr. Jayne A. Major. Nationally acclaimed author of "Breakthrough Parenting" and "Winning the Custody War Without Casualties"
SB-218 ---------- $24.95

3 Steps to a Strong Family, by Linda and Richard Eyre, 1994. A 3-step program that can make your family life happier, less stressful, and more rewarding.
HB-219 ---------- $19.50

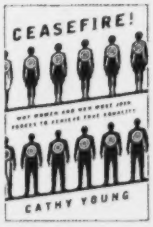
Familyhood: Nurturing the Values that Matter, by Dr. Lee Salk, 1992. A practical, inspiring guide to communicating values.
HB-220 ..... Reg. $21.00 *Discount Price _ $10.00

The Best Parent is Both Parents: A Guide to Shared Parenting in the 21st Century, the CRC book edited by David L. Levy. Order bulk copies (10 or more) for only $4 a copy, resell the copies for the list price of $10 each, and make a profit for you or your organization! Individual copies will continue to be available from CRC for $10 each, plus $4 for postage, as long as supplies last. If you would like copies (individual or bulk order) autographed by David L. Levy, just state to whom you would like it autographed (yourself, perhaps your children—give their names).
SB-221 ---------- Order 10 copies or more each only $4.00
---------- Individual copies $10.00

Helping Your Kids Cope With Divorce, by M. Gary Neuman, L.M.H.C. 1996. This book is based on the nationally renowned "Sandcastles" workshop.
HB-222 ---------- $25.00

The Sibling Society, by Robert Bly, 1996, author of "Iron John." Describes our culture as one where adults remain children, and children have no desire to become adults—a nation of squabbling siblings.
HB-223 ..... Reg. $25.00 *Discount Price _ $12.00

NEW!



Ceasefire, by Cathy Young, 1999, syndicated columnist. Why women and men must join forces to achieve true equality; how that will help children, too.
HB-224 ---------- $25.00

Abolition of Marriage, by Maggie Gallagher, 1996, syndicated columnist. How we destroy lasting love.
HB-226 ---------- $25.00

Friends for Life, by Susan Jonas and Marilyn Nissenson, 1997. Enriching the bond between mothers and their adult daughters.
HB-227 ---------- $29.00

Talking Back to Ritalin, by Peter R. Breggin, M.D., 1998, 4-time guest on Oprah. What doctors aren't telling you about the dangers of stimulants.
HB-228 ---------- $25.00

The Assault on Parenthood, by Dana Mack, 1997. The author, a scholar at the Institute for American Values, describes how our culture undermines the family.
HB-229 ..... Reg. $25.00 *Discount Price _ $10.00

Babyhood, by Paul Reiser, 1997. This is not a how-to-book. It contains humorous stories by the star, co-creator and executive producer of the NBC Series *Mad About You*. Reiser's first book, *Couplehood*, was a #1 New York Times bestseller list.
HB-230 ---------- Reg. $22.00
***Discount Price ---------- $10.00**

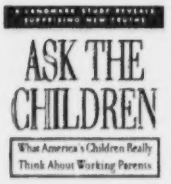
Working Fathers, by James A. Levine, CRC Advisor, and Todd L. Pittinsky. A guide to help fathers as well as mothers, employees and managers, succeed in managing the competitive demands of home and work.
HB-231 ..... Reg. $23.00 *Discount Price _ $10.00

Sylvia Ann Hewlett
Cornel West

The War Against Parents, by Sylvia Ann Hewlett and Cornel West. Praised by CRC in a letter to the Washington Post Book World when the book was published in 1998.
HB-232 ---------- $24.00
***Discount Price ---------- $10.00**

The Divorce Culture, by Barbara Dafoe Whitehead (1996). Worth reading for its insightful views of marriage and divorce, but deficient in not recognizing the phenomenon of the "forced away" and "pushed away" parents.
HB-233 ..... Reg. $24.00 *Discount Price _ $10.00

Business Dad, by Tom Hirschfeld. How Good Businessmen Can Make Great Fathers (and Vice Versa), 1999. Recommended by Stephen R. Covey author of *The 7 habits of Highly Effective People*, and by James A. Levine, director, The Fatherhood Project, Families and Work Institute.
HB-218 ..... Reg. $17.25 *Discount Price _ $10.00



Ask the Children, by Ellen Galinsky, president of the Families and Work Institute, 1999. What America's Children Really Think about Working Parents.
HB-235 ---------- Reg. $25.00
***Discount Price ---------- $10.00**

Saying No Is Not Enough – Raising Children Who Make Wise Decisions About Drugs and Alcohol, by Robert Schwebel, 1989.
HB-236 ..... *Discount Price __ $5.00

Fathers, Sons & Golf – Lessons in Honor and Integrity, by Andrew Shanley, 1997. The experience of a father who spent a memorable summer with his sons playing golf and learning about integrity.
HB-237 ..... *Discount Price _ $10.00

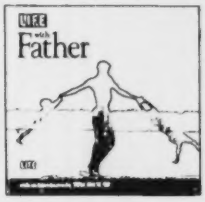
Mars and Venus in Love, by John Gray, Ph.D. 1996. From the author of "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus", An inspiring and heartfelt stories from relationships that work
HB-238 ..... *Discount Price _ $10.00

Parent Power, by Roberta Kirshbaum, 1998. 90 Winning ways to be involved and help your child get the most out of school. An inspirational handbook to help you take charge of your child's education, from kindergarten through high school!
HB-239 ..... *Discount Price __ $5.00

Like Father Like Son, by Hunter S. Fulghum, 1996. This book is about experiencing life even when you feel there may not be much happening. A warm, witty and wise collection of stories on being a man at midlife in America.
HB-240 ..... *Discount Price _ $10.00

Angry Marriage (Overcoming the Rage, Reclaiming the Love), by Bonnie Maslin, Ph.D. 1994. A book that will help you understand how to turn the anger in your marriage into a positive force.
HB-241 ..... *Discount Price __ $4.00

Father's Day – Notes from a New Dad in the Real World, by Bill McCoy, 1995. A wonderful book for all new and not-so-new dads.
HB-242 ..... *Discount Price _ $10.00



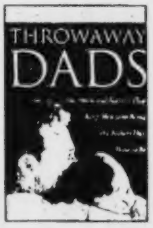
LIFE with Father, LIFE Magazine, 1995. A wonderful gift book for men. 82 photographs collected from the archives of LIFE magazine, depicting images of LIFE with father.
HB-243 _____
*Discount Price _____ $10.00

Rookie Dad – Adventures In Fatherhood, by Rick Epstein, 1992. A hilarious and tender memoir by a first time father. A wonderful gift for the man in your life!
HB-244 ..... *Discount Price __ $5.00

Building a Marriage – 10 Tools for Creating, Repairing, and Maintaining Your Lives Together, by Cranor Graves.
HB-245 ..... *Discount Price __ $5.00

Who's On Top, Who's On Bottom – How Couples Can Learn to Share Power, by Dr. Robert Schwebel, 1994. Women and men reveal their struggles with one another. The core of each story is about people who love each other, but are engaged in power struggles and unable to share power as equals. The book provides GOOD practical examples and solutions.
HB-246 ..... *Discount Price __ $6.00

Masculinity Reconstructed, by Dr. Ronald F. Levant. Changing the rules of manhood-at work, in relationships and in family life.
HB-247 ..... *Discount Price _ $10.00



Throwaway Dads, by Ross D. Parke and Armin A. Brott, 1999. The myths and barriers that keep men from being the fathers they want to be. "An essential guide not only for fathers, but for a culture that is not sure what to do with them" (Gurian, Michael)
HB-248 ----------$20.00

The Divorced Parent – Success Strategies for Raising Your Children After Separation, by Stephanie Marston, 1994. "Any parent could benefit from reading this truly exciting book. Hardly a page without good, practical suggestions for improving one's parenting" (Louise Bates, Ph.D.)
HB-249 ----------$12.00

NEW!

Complex Issues in Child Custody Evaluations, by Philip M. Stahl, 1999. In this book, the author provides a theoretical and practical understanding of many of the factors that make custody evaluations complex. Stahl integrates disparate research findings into a comprehensive resource that will enable the evaluator and the court to understand and deal with spousal conflict, abuse and other complicating issues.
HB-250 ----------$30.00

Healing the Gender Wars – Therapy with Men and Couples, by Samuel Slipp, 1996. In Healing the Gender Wars, the author brings to bear his erudite and thoughtful analysis of male-female conflict, from a modern psychoanalytic, object relations perspective, practical in application.
HB-251 ----------$10.00

Peace with Your Partner – A Practical Guide to a Happy Marriage, by Cranor Graves.
HB-252 ..... *Discount Price __ $5.00

Letters From Dad – Lessons and Love, by John and Jack Broome, 1996. The book is a moving collection of the letters John Broome sent his son, Jack, in an effort to remain a positive force in his development.
HB-253 ..... *Discount Price _ $10.00

Men on Divorce, edited by Penny Kaganoff and Susan Spano, 1997. "A rare, unusually focused anthology of original essays that both entertains and instructs" (Publisher's weekly).
HB-607 ..... *Discount Price _ $10.00

BOOKS FOR STEPPARENTS

How to Win as a Stepfamily, by Emily Visher, Ph.D. and John Visher, M.D., 1982. The co-founders of the Stepfamily Association of America answer questions and give suggestions on how to make stepfamilies work.
HB-301 ----------$13.95

Making it as a Stepparent, New Roles/New Rules, by Claire Berman, 1986. Former president of the Stepfamily Association of America provides practical help and insights.
SB-302 ----------$7.95

Stepfamilies Stepping Ahead, edited by Mala Burt for the Stepfamily Association of America.
SB-303 ----------$9.95

Making Peace in Your Stepfamily, by Harold H. Bloomfield, M.D. 1993. A guide to surviving and thriving as parents and stepparents. Filled with practical help and written with simplicity.
HB-404 ..... *Discount Price _ $10.00

BOOKS FOR GRANDPARENTS

Grandparenting in a Changing World, by Edna LeShan, 1997. "Common sense presented with uncommon grace." —Kirkus Reviews.
SB-401 ..... Reg. $12.00 *Discount Price __ $6.00

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Still a Dad, The Divorced Father's Journey, by CRC's own Serge Prengel, 1998. Published with praise from Warren Farrell, Karen DeCrow, and James A. Cook.
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Fatherless America, by David Blankenhorn, 1995. Shows the devastating consequences of fatherlessness in both individual families and in our society.
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The Masculine Mystique: The Politics of Masculinity, by Andrew Kimbrell, 1995. Presents the argument that American men are in crisis and includes what lead to this phenomenon.
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The Daddy Track and the Single Father, by Geoffery L. Greif, 1990. A book about successfully coping with kids, housework, a job, an ex-wife, a social life, and the courts.
HB-506 ---------- $19.95

Money-Smart Divorce. What Women Need to Know about Money and Divorce, by Esther M. Berger, 1996.
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Why Men Are the Way They Are, by Warren Farrell, 1986. Provides insights into loved one's secret insights and desires.
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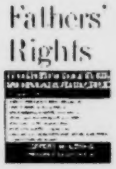

Fathers' Rights, by Jeffrey Leving. A best-selling book for fathers who want to maintain contact with their children.
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The Divorced Parent: Success Strategies for Raising Your Children After Separation, by Stephanie Marston, 1994. Provides practical advice and specific tools for raising well-adjusted children.
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Like Father, Like Son, By Hunter S. Fulghum, 1996. A collection of stories on being a man at midlife in America, with introduction by Robert Fulghum.
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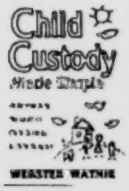

Child Custody Made Simple, by Webster Watnik, 1997. Answers all your questions about child custody and child support for a single parent.
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I Am the Mother of Sons. Poems by Jayne Jaudon Ferrer, 1996. Illustrated by Lina Levy.
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A Family Divided, by Robert Mendelson, 1997. A discussion of a divorced father's struggle with the child custody industry.
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Divorce and the Myth of Lawyers, by Lenard Marlow, J.D., 1992. The exposition of myths regarding the legal system and its effects on divorcing couples.
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Every Parent's Guide to the Law, by Deborah L. Forman. Everything you need to know about legal issues affecting parents and children pre-birth through the child-rearing years.
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Divorce Yourself, the National No-Fault Divorce Kit, by Daniel Sitarz, 3rd ed. 1993. Everything you and your spouse will need to obtain your divorce without using a lawyer. Instructions, easy-to-use legal forms, checklists, and courtroom guidelines. Legally valid in all 50 states and D.C.
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Ashes to Ashes...Families to Dust, by Dean Tong, 1996. False accusations of child abuse: A road map for survivors that helps to answer their questions.
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The Parental Alienation Syndrome, A guide for mental health and legal professionals, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1995. An authoritative work on the Parental Alienation Syndrome.
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Therapeutic Interventions for Children with Parental Alienation Syndrome, by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. (2001). This is a book for therapists working with families where children are alienated from a parent.
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SB-905 ---------- **$50.00**

Recognizing Child Abuse, by Douglas Besharov, Ph.D., a resident scholar of the American Enterprise Institute. A comprehensive guide to recognizing, preventing, and handling child abuse and neglect.
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Last Night in Paradise – Sex and Morals at the Century's End, by Katie Roiphe, 1997. An eye opening look at an age in which sexual liberation and one-night-stands have been replaced by caution and fear. Roiphe blends autobiography and cultural criticism to give us a vivid portrait of the sexual Puritanism sweeping the nation.
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The New Victorians – A Young Woman's Challenge to the Old Feminist Order, by Rene Denfeld 1995. "A powerful call to arms for women" (New York Times book review). A battle plan for the future of feminism that no thinking woman, of any age can or should ignore.
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Additional Findings that Overnights by Infants with the Other Parent Are Fine

by Richard A. Warshak, Ph.D.
author of book entitled, "Divorce Poison" to be published in October, 2001

This is a synopsis of an article by noted researcher Richard A. Warshak that appeared in the Family and Conciliation Courts Review, October, 2000, a quarterly publication of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC). Reprinted with permission. It was the second article published by the AFCC in 2000 on this topic, reflecting the importance that the topic of overnights has become. The first article was by researchers Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D. and Michael E. Lamb, Ph.D. that said extended overnights by infants with the other parent are o.k. (See "Speak Out for Children," Spring, 2001). Warshak provides additional research on the importance of encouraging overnights with the other parent. We thank CRC member Barbara Steinberg for bringing this article to our attention.

Proponents of overnight restrictions generally cite certain theories and concepts of child development and empirical studies to defend their recommendations. Concerns about the harmful impact of two different nighttime caregivers, or two different settings, are most often voiced in the context of attachment theory (Bowlby 1969, 1973, 1980) and psychoanalytic theories of development (Erikson, 1963, 1968, 1980, Mahler, Pine & Bergman, 1975).

Contemporary psychoanalytic theories share the emphasis of the mother's role in early development. It is easy to appreciate how Bowlby's conclusions about maternal deprivation, and subsequent interpretations of his ideas, would lead to a general reluctance to separate infants from the person designated as the psychological parent. Such reluctance would extend to separation at night. But does this theory of child development hold in the court of empirical research?....

According to Michael Lamb (1994), extended separations, including overnights with either parent, usually do not stress infants when they are with the other parent.

In terms of day care research, infants who are in paid child care facilities are able to develop and maintain deep and secure attachments to their mothers. There is no reason to suggest that fathers would provide inferior attention and supervision to their child than that of a paid day care worker. Fathers should not be denied access to their own children on these grounds.

In addition, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) study of Early Child Care conducted an extensive examination of the effects of day care on children. The results derived showed that "There was no significant differences in attachment security related to child-care participation. Even in extensive, early, unstable, or poor-quality care, the likelihood of infants' insecure attachment to mother did not increase, nor did stable or high-quality care increase the likelihood of developing a secure attachment to mother (NICHD Early Child Care Research Network, 1997, p. 875). This research provides firm support for recommending that infants spend extended periods of time with their fathers away from their mother.

Don't Ban Overnights in Custody Matters

Specifically, fathers should not be banned from being granted access to overnights in custody matters. Gender bias plays a factor in refusing to allow non-primary custody fathers the opportunity to take care of their children overnight. The sex of the parent should definitely not be the primary factor in deciding the specifics of a custody case.

Countless studies have proven time and time again that children benefit the most from a relationship when they maintain a solid, involved relationship with both parents following a divorce or separation. All post-divorce custody issues should focus on what is best for the child; therefore they should maximize the opportunity for children to develop and consolidate relationships with both of their parents. According to psychologists, the best way to promote deep attachments is to allow children to interact with parents in a wide variety of contexts. Overnight visits certainly provide a greater range of activities than just a day visit.

High quality relationships are best achieved when children experience each parent participating in all aspects of daily life such as morning activities, day care rituals, meals, bathing, and bedtime habits. Overnights are crucial due to the opportunity for a wider range of involvement. By contributing to the establishment and consolidation of the parent-child relationship, this will benefit the child's long-term adjustment.

Maccoby and Mnookin (1992) reason, "because our evidence suggests that the probability of a father maintaining a connection with the child over time is greater if there are overnight visits, we believe that visitation should ordinarily be construed to permit overnight stays if that is what the secondary parent desires."

In conclusion, blanket restrictions requiring young children to spend every night with the same parent after divorce are inconsistent with current knowledge about the needs and capacities of young children and their parents. In particular, the opinion that children can tolerate sleeping during the day in their father's presence, and in the presence of hired attendants in day care centers, but not at night with their fathers, cannot be said to express a scientific judgement. It reveals a bias often rooted in inaccurate assumptions about early child development.

Experts who endorse blanket restrictions cannot provide adequate scientific justification for their opinions. Courts, attorneys, and parents should be aware of such limitations.

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- Publicized findings that children with two parents generally have fewer problems with drugs and crimes than children with only one parent. Obtained changes in attitudes and laws in order to encourage a child's bonding to two parents and extended family;

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TAPE #	SESSION TITLE	TAPE #	SESSION TITLE
CRC01-1a	*The Perspective on Families: How Foundations, Gov't. Agencies and Non-Profit Organizations View Family Issues*: Maurice Moore, Teresa Kaiser, Malcolm Smith, Linda Meligren, Kevin Gallagher, Moderator: David L. Levy, JD (Part 1 of 2)	CRC01-07	ACCESS TRACK: *Establishing and Operating a Successful Access Center*: Frank Banner, Jr., Terry Cady, Lyn Huerter, Fred Wall, Margaret Wuwert, Moderator: Alfred Ellis
CRC01-1b	*The Perspective on Families:* (Part 2 of 2)	CRC01-08	ACCESS TRACK: Assisting High/Chronically Conflicted Parents Share Their Children: Kim Boedecker-Frey, Carol Garges
CRC01-02	FRIDAY PLENARY SESSION: *Parenting After Divorce*: Philip M. Stahl, PhD	CRC01-09	ACCESS TRACK: *Why Supervised Visitation?* Mary Olesh
CRC01-03	LUNCH: *The New American Family: What Was Wrong With the Old One?* (Kathleen Parker's Material presented by Barbara F. Steinberg, PhD)	CRC01-10	The International Perspective: CRC Chapters in Africa, Asia, Europe and the UK: • *The Disturbing Reality of Parental Abductions, Divorce and Custody in Japan*: Walter Benda, Max Meadows • *he Little Known Problems of Children and Parents Without Custody in the United Kingdom*: Tony Coe
CRC01-4a	CREATIVE WRITING GROUP: *Telling Your Story of Loss, Hope and Renewal:* Mark Roseman, PhD		
CRC01-05	ADVOCACY: *Playing a Responsible Role:* Ronald K. Henry, JD		
CRC01-06	SATURDAY PLENARY SESSION: *False Allegations of Parental Alienation*: Douglas A. Darnall, PhD	CRC01-11	*The Future of CRC: Questions and Answers*: David L. Levy, JD; John L. Bauserman, Jr., JD
CRC01-12	*Grandparents Are Parents, Too!* Jean T. Castagno	CRC01-25	*Generative Parenting: Seeking Peace in the Mediation of Divorce*: Mark A. Rogers, PsyD, Jeffery Leving, JD
CRC01-13	*Rebuilding the Bond*: Pamela Stuart-Mills Hoch	CRC01-26	*Should Access Be Provided to Kidnappers After Children Have Been Recovered, and If So, Under What Circumstances?* Maureen Dabbagh
CRC01-14	*Focused Thinking in Parenting: Teaching Children to Think & Solve Problems Successfully*: Stanley Posthumus	CRC01-27	*Alienation: How It Feels; What We Should Do About It!* Ned Holstein, MD
CRC01-15	*Gender Politics & Shared Parenting*: Cathy Young	CRC01-28	*Alienation and Malpractice: A Case Study*: Robert B. Gidding, JD
CRC01-16	*Developments on Capitol Hill That Affect Children & Families*: David L. Levy, Teresa Kaiser, Mark Veney	CRC01-29	*Caught in the Crossfire: Dispelling Myths About Child Abuse and Custody Cases*: Dean Tong
CRC01-17	*Dads and Stepdads Parenting With Moms and Stepmoms:* Margorie Engel, PhD (Part 1 of 2)	CRC01-30	*In the Best Interests of Children & Families:* Judge Larnzell Martin, Judge Woodrow Lewis
CRC01-17a	*Dads and Stepdads Parenting With Moms and Stepmoms:* (Part 2 of 2)	CRC01-31	*The Politics of Parenting:* Stephen Baskerville, PhD
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CRC01-19	*Financial Child Support: Obligation or Burden?* Teresa Kaiser, JD	CRC01-32b	*Foundations for Parental Alienation / Cost Shares Child Support Guidelines:* (Part 2 of 2)
CRC01-21	*Developmentally Effective Parenting Plans*: Philip M. Stahl, PhD	CRC01-33	*Building Successful Partnerships: Parents – The Key to Success: Sue Gatton, National PTA*
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Equal Parents' Week
September 23–September 30, 2001

By Patti Diroff,
CRC Equal Parents Week National Coordinator

The objective of Equal Parents' Week is to bring people together who believe that parental rights and responsibilities must be shared equally.

The right of both parents to function as a parent, the right of children to be raised and nurtured by both parents, and the right of families to exist and function as a family, are civil and human rights inalienable to all families.

This message will be sent from the hearts of families across this country and around the world, who will unite their voices through the simple act of tying purple ribbons.

The EPW website can be found at http://members.tripod.com/epweek.

This year, the candlelight vigils will be held Tuesday, September 25, 2001 at 8:30 p.m. (as the time occurs in each time zone) to avoid conflicts with Yom Kippur.

The theme of the candlelight vigils, "A Moment In Our Hearts, A Moment Of Solidarity" is expressed in the special "5 Candles Reading" for the vigils, which is based on "The Grandparents Holiday Wreath of Love" and can be found at http://members.tripod.com/epweek/candlevigil.html.

Two types of candlelight vigils are being held. Persons can choose to hold a public candlelight vigil (usually held outside and/or in a public place). "Home Vigils" are held by lighting a candle in your home for at least 15 minutes. A "Home Vigil" can be held by anyone, by a single person living alone or with immediate family, and can include as many people as you wish. "Home Vigils" are very easy to do! You don't have to go anywhere or make any arrangements. Just stay home and reserve this special time to focus on the very personal feelings you have for your family, knowing you will be sharing this moment with people all around the world who are joining together to share the same focus and love for their families.

Persons who cannot attend a public vigil are urged to hold their own "Home Vigil" to add their voices and strengthen the message of Equal Parents' Week. Complementary Equal Parents' Week buttons are being sent to people who sign up and commit to holding candlelight vigils.

In addition to the vigils, other activities can be held as part of Equal Parents' Week, including picnics, social gatherings, gatherings with or without guest speakers, and rallies. Any activity which includes tying and wearing purple ribbons can be used. People who are able to make large banners can also use these to attract public and media attention. "Just Say Yes to Shared Parenting," "Shared Parenting Is About Putting Children First," "Shared Parenting Works When We Put Children First," which promote the JUST SAY YES! campaign are some examples of slogans which help send our message.

Sign up links for vigils and activities are available on the Equal Parents' Week website.

Please contact the National Coordinator, Patti Diroff, at (909) 591-3689.

Beat the Tax Man: Contribute to CRC

Keep working for children. If you wish to consider leaving a bequest or property to CRC, please state the following in your will: "I hereby leave the following to the Children's Rights Council: ___(state your bequest)___."

Change of Address

To keep newsletters and other materials coming, please notify CRC three weeks in advance of any address change. Send old and new addresses to CRC, 300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, DC 20002.

CRC 2nd Annual Training Session October 13

CRC will hold its second annual all day meeting Saturday, October 13, 2001 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) for chapters heads, chapter members and members of CRC interested in becoming active in CRC or active in a chapter. Topics: chapter development, grant development, marketing.

For those interested, we will have dinner Saturday evening, and have a talk Sunday morning on a topic related to the training. The location will be at a hotel near the Baltimore Washington Airport (BWI). Hotel rooms will be under $85 for one night. The hotel location will be posted on a CRC website, www.gocrc.com by Labor Day, or contact the CRC office.

Everyone is welcome.

Donors Are Appreciated

CRC thanks everyone who contributes to CRC in the charity drive that takes place in all federal government offices every Fall. CRC is part of Independent Charities of America. We also thank those who contribute to CRC in the Washington, D.C., and San Francisco (Bay Area) United Way campaigns.

We also thank those who contribute to CRC through their United Way in some other part of the country, where we are not listed, but where employers may sometimes allow employees to designate CRC.

CRC depends on volunteer help and contributions for its existence.

If you wish to make your tax-deductible contribution directly to CRC, send it to CRC, 300 I Street, Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002.

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Forgive Them Their Debts

Excerpted from an article by Cheryl Wetzstein in The Washington Times, June 13, 2001.

"Ray was a teen-age father when he went to jail on a felony charge for 17 years. By the time he was released two years ago, he owed the state of Maryland $14,000 in child support to defray the costs of welfare for his children and their mothers.

"Today, Ray, which is not his real name, is part of a pilot program started by Maryland child-support officials to 'leverage' his $14,000 debt.

"Under the program, Ray had to graduate from a community-based program that teaches job readiness or responsible fatherhood, get a job and make regular child-support payments for six months.

"In return, the state erased 25 percent of Ray's debt.

"If Ray does this three more times, all his state debt could be gone," said Teresa Kaiser, Maryland's child-support enforcement director.

"The Baltimore debt-leveraging program, which will be a year old in July, is being closely watched by state officials and advocates.

"Child-support debt is supposed to be unforgivable. Under a federal law championed by former Sen. Bill Bradley of New Jersey, judges are forbidden from retroactively reducing or forgiving child-support arrears.

"While this law was intended to stop judges from unilaterally wiping out debt based on parents' sob stories, it also had the unintended consequence of creating a debt meter that couldn't be stopped. This applies even to parents who are hospitalized for months, given long prison sentences or taken hostage in a foreign country.

There is widespread support for finding ways to help parents—mostly fathers—become responsible for their children.

Groups that worked with poor fathers, however, quickly realized that child-support arrears were a major obstacle.

"Without a debt-leveraging program, "a lot of guys would go to their graves with arrearages," said James Smith, a case manager at CFWD.

"The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support has been urging states to find ways to offer amnesty for some of the debts owed by noncustodial parents,' said ACES President Geraldine Jensen.

"The states were sort of piling on, billing unwed or absent fathers for the Medicaid-paid costs of their children's births, paternity tests and interest on the debt," she said. "The result was that many young fathers ended up with $10,000 in debt and a lot of them would just run and go underground," she said. "That meant many families didn't get child support."

Editor's Note: Debt-forgiveness programs provide crucial outreach efforts to "deadbroke parents," usually poor, unwed fathers. Children need the love and support of both parents. Programs that provide training, support and education to parents in exchange for forgiving arrearages that would probably never be paid anyway—because of the impoverishment of the parents—is a great way to encourage involvement of both parents in the raising of their children, emotionally as well as financially.

We thank visionary Maryland Child Support Director Teresa Kaiser for being the first child support director in the country to initiate a federally authorized state debt-forgiveness program.

Letter to the Editor

Editor:

Clayton Giles, a 14 year old boy from Canada, has walked and ridden his bike from Calgary, Canada to Washington, D.C. in order to increase awareness of the injustice that Family Courts can inflict upon children of divorcing parents.

He made stops in several U.S. cities, including cities in New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, and finally Washington, D.C.

Clayton began his journey from Calgary at the end of May and was expected to reach Washington by mid-August. You can read all about his trip at http://legalkids.com/

I urge you to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share this boy's commitment to children and families. By giving this little boy your support, you will bring valuable publicity to your organization and to the terrible violation of civil liberaties that non-custodial parents and their children suffer.

Deborah M. Colerick,
Charlotte, NC

CRC Needs

- Free or reduced rent office space. Get a tax write-off as you help kids and CRC. 2,000 square feet or more anywhere in the Washington, D.C. area (Maryland, D.C. or Virginia).
- Volunteers to help with filing, phone calls, and writing letters.
- Our chapters need computers and office space.
- Lawyers to write CRC Amicus Briefs on appeal.

President Bush Issues National Child's Day Proclamation for 2001

The U.S. is one of the few countries that do not celebrate a National Child's Day. But that may be changing.

For the first time, a U.S. President has issued a proclamation declaring that the first Sunday in June is National Child's Day. President Bush signed the proclamation marking Sunday, June 3, 2001, as National Child's Day.

CRC and FOCUS, a group based in Florida headed by Mrs. Lee Rechter, are now asking the President to declare Child's Day a permanent, national holiday.

"That way, Congress would not have to pass a resolution each year," said Ms. Rechter.

Each year for the past 6 years, either the House or the Senate has passed a one-time resolution. Earlier House resolutions declared Children's Day in October. But for the past three years, Senator Bob Graham (D-FL) has sponsored a Senate resolution declaring that National Child's Day is the first Sunday in June.

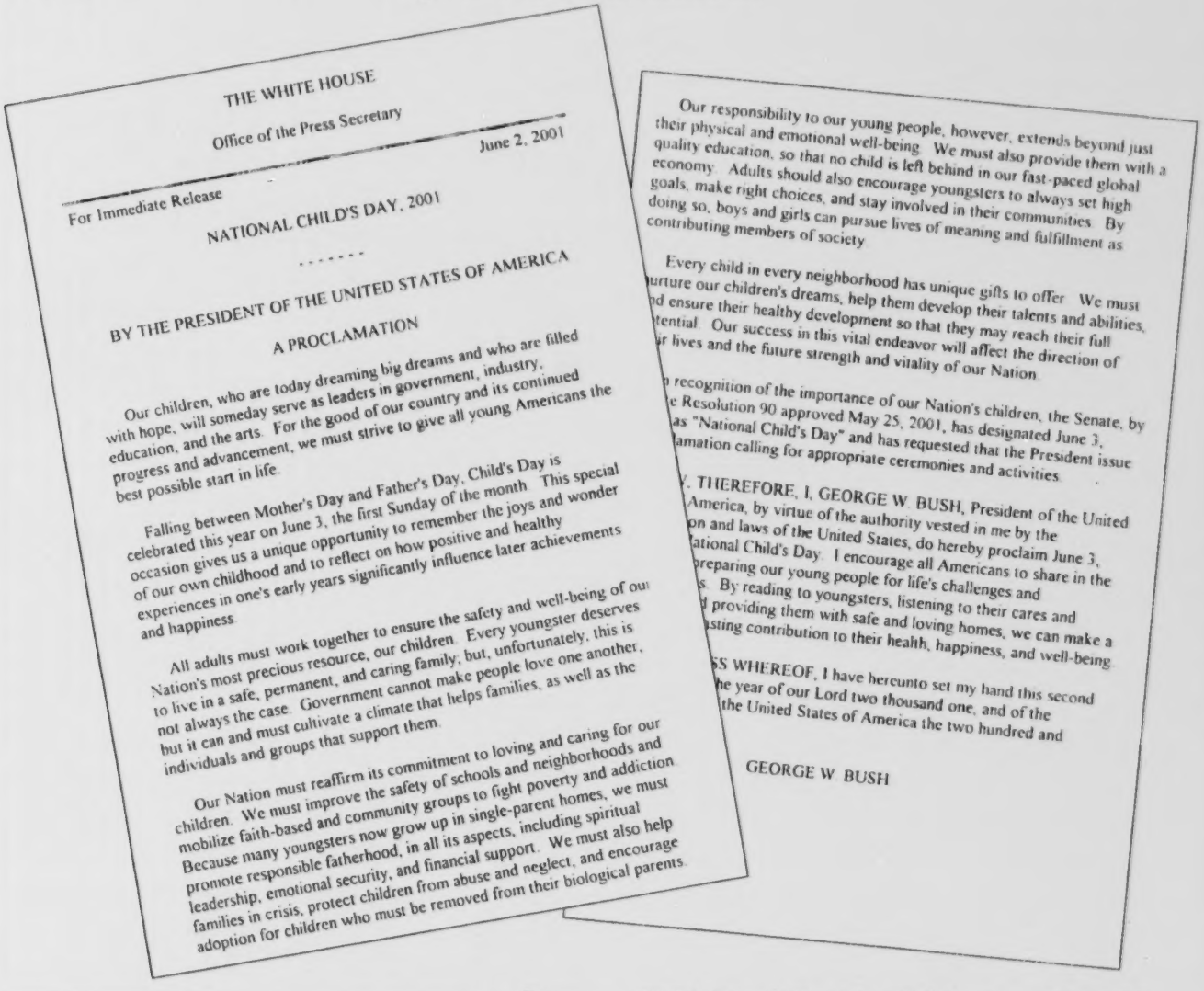
"This nestles it between Mother's Day and Father's Day, just where it should be," said CRC President David L. Levy.

CRC held a press conference on National Child's Day at the National Capital Children's Museum, attended by Washington, D.C. Councilman Harold Brazil, Lee Rechter, Kristie Schwartz, of Senator Graham's office, Ruth Kidd of the Children's Museum, and CRC officers.

Dr. Christine Brooks, a former staffer for Sen. Graham, is helping to make National Child's Day a national Holiday.

The way that Mother's Day and Father's Day have been national holidays for years is by presidential proclamation.

"Ms. Rechter is the mother of National Child's Day and David L. Levy is the father of National Child's Day," said a Capitol Hill observer. "Both have been working on this project for a long time."



THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 2, 2001

NATIONAL CHILD'S DAY, 2001

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Our children, who are today dreaming big dreams and who are filled with hope, will someday serve as leaders in government, industry, education, and the arts. For the good of our country and its continued progress and advancement, we must strive to give all young Americans the best possible start in life.

Falling between Mother's Day and Father's Day, Child's Day is celebrated this year on June 3, the first Sunday of the month. This special occasion gives us a unique opportunity to remember the joys and wonder of our own childhood and to reflect on how positive and healthy experiences in one's early years significantly influence later achievements and happiness.

All adults must work together to ensure the safety and well-being of our Nation's most precious resource, our children. Every youngster deserves to live in a safe, permanent, and caring family; but, unfortunately, this is not always the case. Government cannot make people love one another, but it can and must cultivate a climate that helps families, as well as the individuals and groups that support them.

Our Nation must reaffirm its commitment to loving and caring for our children. We must improve the safety of schools and neighborhoods and mobilize faith-based and community groups to fight poverty and addiction. Because many youngsters now grow up in single-parent homes, we must promote responsible fatherhood, in all its aspects, including spiritual leadership, emotional security, and financial support. We must also help families in crisis, protect children from abuse and neglect, and encourage adoption for children who must be removed from their biological parents.

Our responsibility to our young people, however, extends beyond just their physical and emotional well-being. We must also provide them with a quality education, so that no child is left behind in our fast-paced global economy. Adults should also encourage youngsters to always set high goals, make right choices, and stay involved in their communities. By doing so, boys and girls can pursue lives of meaning and fulfillment as contributing members of society.

Every child in every neighborhood has unique gifts to offer. We must nurture our children's dreams, help them develop their talents and abilities, and ensure their healthy development so that they may reach their full potential. Our success in this vital endeavor will affect the direction of our lives and the future strength and vitality of our Nation.

In recognition of the importance of our Nation's children, the Senate, by ...e Resolution 90 approved May 25, 2001, has designated June 3, ...as "National Child's Day" and has requested that the President issue ...lamation calling for appropriate ceremonies and activities.

...Y, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United ...America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the ...on and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 3, ...National Child's Day. I encourage all Americans to share in the ...preparing our young people for life's challenges and ...s. By reading to youngsters, listening to their cares and ...providing them with safe and loving homes, we can make a ...sting contribution to their health, happiness, and well-being.

...SS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second ...he year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the ...the United States of America the two hundred and ...

GEORGE W. BUSH

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Responsible Fatherhood Act 2001

S. 653 (Senate bill) and H.R. 1300 (House bill).

The Responsible Fatherhood Act provides for $77 million in fatherhood programs. $25 million would be for media campaigns, $50 million would be for block grants to the states for fatherhood programs, and $1 million or $2 million would be for a national clearinghouse of information. The media campaigns would include ads on fatherhood during prime time viewing hours.

It would be the responsibility for governors of the various states to allocate funds to state agencies, non-profit or faith-based groups to run various programs to encourage marriage and fatherhood.

The Senate bill's major sponsor is Sen. Evan Bayh (D-IN), and the House's main sponsor is Rep. Julia Carson (D-IN). The bills have bipartisan support, and are expected to be passed by Congress this Fall.

CRC college student interns, led by intern Ron Varga, met with Bayh's and Carson's staff to make certain that Safe Haven Child Access Transfer Centers, run by CRC and other organizations, would be eligible for funding. The staff said such programs could be funded by the state under the block grants.

Earlier this year, at the request of CRC, Sen. Bayh added a provision to the bill that said, in considering funding, one of the factors should be programs that explain "the benefits of the involvement of both parents in a child's life."

The Senate bill was referred to the Senate Finance Committee, (202) 224-4515 and the House version was referred to House Ways and Means Committee, (202) 225-3625. **Contact your House members and Senators and lend support to the bills.**

Denial of Passports

H.R. 407, introduced by Rep. Robert Andrews (D, NJ), establishes a denial of passports to non-custodial parents in cases of child support. This bill authorizes the Secretary of State to refuse, revoke, restrict, or limit use of a passport if the applicant or passport holder is a non-custodial parent who is the object of an outstanding State arrest warrant. The warrants are for nonpayment of child support, where the amount in controversy is not less than $10,000. Referred to House Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, phone (202) 225-3345. CRC has asked Rep. Andrews to provide a balancing amendment to this bill to deny passports to custodial parents who have been found to be in violation of any custody or visitation court order. **Write to Rep. Andrews stating that parents are sometimes in contempt or other violation of court ordered custody or access, and that he should amend H.R. 407 to provide for denial of passports for this reason. Ask your own representative to introduce such an amendment. Let CRC know the response.**

Tax Interception

H.R. 869, introduced by Rep. Michael N. Castle (R-DE), titled the Child Support Fairness and Tax Interception Act of 2001. This bill amends title IV part D (Child Support and Establishment of Paternity) of the Social Security Act to provide for the use of the tax refund intercept program to collect past-due child support on behalf of children who are not minors. Referred to House Subcommittee on Human Resources, telephone (202) 225-1025. **Write to Rep. Castle to explain that sometimes parents will win a court award for another parent's interference with custody or access, and that H.R. 869 should also apply to those unpaid judgments. Write to your own representative asking for such an amendment. Let CRC know the response.**

Simplified USA Tax Act of 2001

H.R. 86, introduced by Rep. Phil English (R-PA), provides in Section 5 that a taxpayer shall be allowed alimony and child support deductions for an amount equal to the alimony, child support, or separate maintenance payments paid during the taxpayer's taxable year. Under current law, the custodial parent may claim the $2,000 child exemption. H.R. 86 does not change who can claim the child exemption, but encourages parents to pay child support because it provides some incentive to do so. **Write to your representative letting them know that allowing a parent who pays child support to deduct the payment from his/her taxes will encourage the payment of child support. Send a copy of their response to CRC.**

The address for all House members is House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. The address for all Senators is U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. The telephone number to reach all members of Congress is (202) 224-3121.

Contact Other CRC Members by E-mail

Send and receive e-mail from other CRC members around the country.

If you are a CRC member, e-mail the following message to Harry Prillaman, CRC Coordinator for Georgia, who is supervising this service. He can be reached at ppilla@us.ibm.com

Dear Harry, I am a national CRC member who would like to join the crc-general@yahoogroups.com distribution list.

Thanks,

Your name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address

Call the CRC national office at 202-547-6227 or fax 202-546-4272 to make sure your national membership is current.

ASI 128

Family Facts

Fewer Teen-Agers Pregnant

Excerpted from a Washington Times article by Cheryl Wetzstein, June 13, 2001.

"The teen pregnancy rate fell to a record low in 1997, reflecting a slide in pregnancy, abortions and birthrates that began earlier in the decade, the federal government said June 12, 2001.

There were 872,000 teen pregnancies in 1997, said researchers with the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

"The 1997 teen-pregnancy rate, which is the most recent figure available, was 94.3 pregnancies per 1,000 teens age 15-19.

"This is 19 percent lower than the teen-pregnancy rate in 1991, when the rate peaked at 116.5 pregnancies per 1,000 teens, said NCHS researchers. This is also the lowest rate since 1976, when consistent collection of national pregnancy rates began, they said.

"The news is 'greatly encouraging,' especially since teen pregnancy rates fell for 'all racial and ethnic groups,' Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson said.

Mr. Thompson urged parents to talk to their teens about pregnancy issues, as they can have the greatest influence on their children.

"The White House is 'dedicated to doing its part' as well," he said, listing budget requests of "$64 million to 'strengthen the role of fathers' in families, $33 million for teen maternity group homes, and equal funding for 'abstinence education and programs that teach about contraception use.'"

In the NCHS report, Stephanie J. Ventura and her colleagues credited sexual abstinence and increased contraception use as reasons for the recent declines in teen pregnancy, abortion and birthrates.

"Other factors are the introduction of long-lasting contraceptives, such as Norplant and Depo-Provera, and a good economy, which may have inspired more teens to avoid pregnancy so they could pursue educational and career goals, they said.

Jennifer Manlove, a researcher with Child Trends Inc., said tenn-pregnancy rates may continue to fall because abortion rates have been declining and teen birthrates fell in both 1998 and 1999."

Young Singles Aim at Lasting Marriage

Excerpted from a Washington Times article by Cheryl Wetzstein, June 13, 2001.

"Young single adults are intensely averse to divorce and want to marry a lifelong 'soulmate,' says a study by the National Marriage Project.

"They know who they want–Miss or Mr. Right–and they know what they don't want–divorce,' said Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, who runs the project with David Popenoe, a sociology professor at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J.

"The hard part may be getting there–making the right choice, at the right time and sticking to it,' said Mrs. Whitehead, who gained national attention with her 1993 Atlantic Monthly article, "Dan Quayle was Right."

Young people's aspirations for lasting marriages come at a time when marriage is weakening as a social institution, the two researchers said in their 'State of Our Unions: 2001' report, issued June 13, 1001.

Marriage has vanished as the normal rite of passage for sexual involvement, parenthood, economic growth and religious and public adulthood, they said.

"Instead, marriage is a "gaining popularity as a 'super-relationship'–an intensely private, spiritualized union, combining sexual fidelity, romantic love, emotional intimacy and togetherness.

"Ninety-four percent of never-married adults agree that when 'you marry, you want your spouse to be your soul mate, first and foremost,' the researchers said, citing data from a Gallup poll taken this year of 1,003 adults ages 20-29.

"An upside of the 'soul-mate' approach is that a high percentage of young people–86 percent–believe that marriage is 'hard-work and a full-time job,' said Mrs. Whitehead. This is 'not a cavalier attitude' about marriage, she said.

"A downside, however, is that couples who are highly dependent on each other for happiness are likely to struggle, especially under the demands of parenthood.

"Also, if couples set high expectations for their marriages, they may not handle turmoil well. Unless you have a very clear understanding about what daily life with a soul mate is all about, there is a risk that someone will be extremely disappointed if that high level isn't attained day to day,' said Mrs. Whitehead.

"In their study, Mr. Popenoe and Mrs. Whitehead found that 88 percent of young adults agreed that the divorce rate was too high."

From Volume 16, Number 2, Summer 2001,
Speak Out for Children, newsletter of the Children's Rights Council

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National Affiliate Organizations

Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC)
Jennifer Isham, coordinator
website only: http: www/motherswithoutcustody.org

Stepfamily Association of America (SAA)
Margorie Engel, Ph.D., president
Larry Kallemyn, executive director
650 J Street, Suite 205
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
402/477-7837
1-800/735-0329
Joint membership in SAA and CRC: $35.00 for the first year

Parenting Coalition International, Inc.
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Assisting Children of Separated, Divorced, and Never-Married Parents

SPEAK OUT FOR CHILDREN®

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Country Music Embraces Children's Rights Council

Ernie and Bettye Ashworth
Ernie is a member of the Grand Ole Opry; Ernie and Bettye are new CRC Grandparent Spokespersons

The Children's Rights Council has struck a chord with Country Music. KMA Records of Nashville has brought together Ernie Ashworth, a member of the Grand Ole Opry, and other rising stars in the country music field, to produce a compact disc (CD) entitled "Ernie Ashworth and Friends Sing Out for the Children's Rights Council."

Hadassah

On the CD, Ernie Ashworth sings his 1964 number one hit single "Talk Back Trembling Lips." Hadassah Luther, 13, CRC's first ever child spokesperson, sings "Hear the Cries of the Children." This song is the first ever National Theme Song for CRC, and everyone was moved when Hadassah (www.myhadassah.com) performed it at the CD release party.

There are only 72 members of the Grand Ole Opry (www.opry.com). As Ernie Ashworth explained at the CD release party in Nashville on March 18, Grand Ole Opry members get many requests to lend their name to projects "and we must be cautious."

There are millions of country music fans around the U.S. and abroad who love the tradition of country music as performed by Ernie Ashworth (www.ErnieAshworth.com) and the other Opry members.

A while ago, three people who knew Mr. Ashworth asked him to support CRC. They were Jean Massengale, Keith Bradford, owner of KMA Records, and Steve Webb, owner of Country Music Webs.

Massengale, a songwriter and country artist manager, teamed up with Charlotte Bradford to write the theme song, "Hear the Cries of the Children;" Bradford, owner of KMA Records, produced the CD album. Steve Webb works with David Courson, CRC Tennessee Coordinator, in developing the CRC Tennessee chapter.

Ernie Ashworth and his wife Bettye, who have 4 children and 8 grandchildren, were moved after hearing the trio talk glowingly of CRC. In addition to being involved in this album project, Ernie and Bettye also accepted an invitation to become Grandparent Spokespersons for CRC.

The country artists who sing on the CD paid their own expenses to come to Nashville from six states, to record the album and to join in the CD release party activities. They are Mark Rivers of North Carolina, Sharon Brooks of Nebraska, Lori

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The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a nation-wide, non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) children's rights organization based in Washington, D.C.

Mission

- The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a national, non-profit organization committed to the loving, nurturing, protecting and education of children through both parents and extended family.
- CRC is dedicated to helping children by promoting family formation, shared parenting, mediation, parent education, and mitigating the effects of divorce and relationship breakups on children and parents.

Vision

- CRC's vision is a society where both parents play a significant parenting role in their children's lives. Children need grandparents, step-parents and others who are part of the family fabric, working as a team.
- CRC envisions a society where laws, attitudes, and public opinion affirm that for children, **"The Best Parent is Both Parents."**

Formed in 1985 by concerned parents who had more than 40 years collective experience in custody reform and early childhood education, CRC has chapters in 32 states and four national affiliate organizations: Mothers Without Custody, (MW/OC), The Stepfamily Association of America (SAA), CO-MAMAS, and Parenting Coalition International, Inc.

Prominent professionals in the fields of religion, law, social work, psychology, child care, education, business, and government comprise our Advisory Panel.

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Extended Overnights by Infants with the Other Parent Are O.K.

by Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D., and Michael E. Lamb, Ph.D.

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CRC agrees with almost all of the statements made in this important article.

With the historic focus on preserving the mother-infant attachment while establishing an exclusive home, overnights or extended visits with the other parent (mostly the father) were long forbidden or strongly discouraged by judges, custody evaluators, therapists, mental health professionals, family law attorneys, and, not surprisingly, by many mothers (e.g. Garrity & Baris, 1992; Goldstein, Freud, & Solnit, 1973; Goldstein, Freud, Solnit & Goldstein, 1986). Hodges, 1991, for example, stated that for infants younger than 6 months, "overnight visits are not likely to be in the child's best interest, because infants' eating and sleeping arrangements should be as stable as possible" (p.175). For infants 6 to 18 months or age, overnight visits "should be considered less than desirable" (p.170).

Although Hodges noted the importance of several visits per week for older infants who were attached to their fathers, he recommended that these be limited to several hours. Hodges stated that children might be able to spend overnights "without harm" only after reaching 3 years of age (p.177).

Such unnecessarily restrictive and prescriptive guidelines were not based on child development research and thus reflected an outdated view of parent-child relationships. Further, such recommendations did not take in to account the quality of father-child relationships, the nature of both parents' involvement, or the child's need to maintain and strengthen relationships with both parents after separation (Lamb, Sternberg, & Thompson, 1997).

Research and experience with infant day care, early preschool, and other stable caretaking arrangements indicate that infants and toddlers readily adapt to such transitions and also sleep well, once familiarized. Indeed, a child also thrives socially, emotionally, and cognitively if the caretaking arrangements are predictable and if parents are both sensitive to the child's physical and developmental needs and emotionally available (Horner & Guyer, 1993; Lamb, 1998).

The evening and overnight periods (like extended days with nap times) with nonresidential parents are especially important psychologically not only for infants but for toddlers and young children as well.

Evening and overnight periods provide opportunities for crucial social interactions and nurturing activities, including bathing, soothing hurts and anxieties, bedtime rituals, comforting in the middle of the night, and the reassurance and security of snuggling in the morning after awakening, that 1-to 2-hour visits cannot provide. These everyday activities promote and maintain trust and confidence in the parents while deepening and strengthening child-parent attachments.

Absolutely no Evidence of Harm to Children from Overnights with Other Parent

There is absolutely no evidence that children's psychological adjustment or the relationships between children and their parents are harmed when children spend overnight periods with their other parents. An often mis-cited study by Solomon (1997) reported high levels of insecure infant-mother and infant-father attachment when parents lived apart, although toddlers who spent overnights with both their fathers and mothers were not significantly more likely to have insecure relationships than those children who did not have overnights visits with both parents.

Indeed, as articulated above, there is substantial evidence regarding the benefits of these regular experiences. Aside from maintaining and deepening attachments, overnights provide children with a diversity of social, emotional, and cognitively stimulating experiences that promote adaptability and healthy development.

In addition, meaningful father-child relationships may encourage fathers to remain involved in their children's lives by making them feel enfranchised as parents.

Other advantages of overnights are the normal combination of leisure and "real" time that extended parenting affords, the ability to stay abreast of the constant and complex changes in the child's development, opportunities for effective discipline and teaching that are central to good parenting, and opportunities to reconnect with the child in a meaningful way.

In contrast, brief, 2-hour visits remind infants that the visiting parents exist but do not provide the broad array of parenting activities that anchor the relationships in their minds.

When mothers are breast-feeding, there is considerable hesitation, indecision, and perhaps strong maternal resistance regarding extended overnight or full-day separations. Breast-feeding is obviously one of the important contexts in which attachments are promoted, although it is by no means an essential context. Indeed, there is no evidence that breast-fed babies form closer or more secure relationships to their parents than

Continued on page 4

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Extended Overnights

Continued from page 3

Not Crucial that Both Residences be the Same

When there are overnights, it is not crucial that two residential beds or environments be the same, as infants adapt quickly to these differences. It may be more important that feeding and sleep routines be similar in each household to ensure stability. Thus, parents should share information about bed times and rituals, night awakenings, food preferences and feeding schedules, effective practices for soothing, illnesses, and changes in routine as the child matures.

Parents should be encouraged by attorneys or mediators to communicate directly, either verbally or in writing. If this is not possible due to the intransigence of either or both parents, then the courts should order the involvement of co-parenting consultants, special masters, or custody mediators until the normal angers of divorce subside (Emery, 1994, 1999; Kelly, 1991, 1994).

It is important as well to recognize that protracted litigation and the specter of winning or losing delay the decline of conflict (Maccoby & Mnookin, 1992), thus, such disputes should be resolved with speed. Furthermore, communication quality should not be judged from the level of conflict surrounding and encouraged by the litigation.

The challenges of child-focused communication require commitment on the parents' part to their children's well-being but will have long-term positive consequences for children and for each of the parent-child relationships. Although it is clear that a cooperative relationship between parents is beneficial, parenting schedules that promote meaningful child-parent relationships should not be restricted after separation if one or both parents are not able to cooperate. Disengaged parents may function effectively in their parallel domains and, in so doing, enhance their children's adjustment (Lamb et al., 1997; Maccoby & Mnookin, 1992; Whiteside, 1998).

Because high conflict is associated with poorer child outcomes following divorce (Johnston, 1994; Kelly, in press; Maccoby & Mnookin, 1992), it is preferable that transitions be accomplished without overt conflict. However, it is important to understand how high conflict is conceptualized in the relevant research, as the findings are often misunderstood. Almost by definition, of course, custody and access disputes involve conflict, but it is clear that such conflict in and of itself is not necessarily harmful.

The high conflict found harmful by researchers such as Johnston (1994) typically involved repeated incidents of spousal violence and verbal aggression continued at intense levels for extended periods of time and often in front of the children. Johnston emphasized the importance of continued relationships with both parents except in those relatively uncommon circumstances in which intense, protracted conflict occurs.

High conflict at the time of transition may heighten children's anxiety about separation. Even without conflict, transitions can cause unsettled behavior, fretting, and crying as children move from one set of routines or one parental style to another. As noted above, this is especially true of children 15 to 24 months of age, when it is quite normal.

If High Conflict Exists, Children Can be Exchanged at Neutral Places

If conflict is difficult to avoid because of one or both parents' hostility, then transitions should be implemented by babysitters or should take place at neutral places such as day care centers, special visiting centers set up for this purpose, or supportive grandparents' homes.

Occasionally, mothers are very hostile to fathers after separation as part of a legal strategy to prevent or diminish the fathers' participation in child rearing and co-parenting. In such instances, fathers should not be denied adequate contact with their children because conflict between the parents exists.

Similarly, when fathers berate mothers at transitions or refuse to communicate about the infants' behaviors when with them, they will need to demonstrate more cooperative attitudes to warrant more extended contact.

It should be assumed that parents would have somewhat different parenting styles, which are related to their own upbringing and personalities. Regardless of those differences, children (and parents) benefit from discussions of disciplinary techniques and approaches as well as about the achievement of major developmental tasks such as toilet training. Furthermore, children will typically have different social experiences (and holiday rituals) with each parent and with extended families and friends.

Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D., is a clinical and research psychologist, assistant clinical professor at the University of California at San Francisco, and was previously director of the Northern California Mediation Center. She has published extensively in the area of divorce and children's adjustment, custody and access, and custody and divorce mediation. She is an advisor to CRC.

Michael E. Lamb Ph.D., is head of the Section on Social and Emotional Development at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in Maryland. He has published extensively in the child development literature, with a focus on parent-child relationships, nonparental child care, and forensic interview processes.

CRC Needs

- Free or reduced rent office space. Get a tax write-off as you help kids and CRC. 2,000 square feet or more anywhere in the Washington, D.C. area (Maryland, D.C. or Virginia).
- Volunteers to help with filing, phone calls, and writing letters.
- Our chapters need computers and office space.
- Lawyers to write CRC Amicus Briefs on appeal.

Special Masters Program Induces Cooperation by Highly Conflicted Parents

Kim Frey

Runs Program to Encourage Child Access between Highly Conflicted Parents

In New York, the operative court case, Braiman v. Braiman (1978) states that if parents are significantly conflicted, they cannot share custody. It does not matter if a parent is purposely sabotaging cooperation; such behavior destroys the opportunity for shared parenting, according to this case.

To counter this criticism, programs have been established to show that highly conflicted parents can learn to cooperate in the upbringing of their child. The key is education.

Mr. Kim Boedecker-Frey, CRC Coordinator for New York State, has been administering a Special Master's Program for highly conflicted parents for the past two years. The program is conducted from a Child Access (visitation) grant provided by the New York State Child Support Office, which oversees New York's portion of the federal access funds to the states. The grant provided $32,000 for each of the past two years to run the program.

CRC is sorry to be losing Kim Boedecker-Frey as CRC New York State coordinator. Kim has been a bulwark for child advocacy in New York for the past five years, but he has long planned to leave to pursue educational goals.

Before his leaving, we asked Kim to describe the New York program that he developed. It is a model that can be used in other states, to help children and families. Here is Kim's description of the program.

Special Mediation Service

Special Masters programs exist in several states as a specialized mediation service for parents who have a high level of conflict, and are chronic litigators whose children pay the price for this conflict.

Special Masters staffing and procedures vary program to program. However, they are generally supervised by judges and have a high success rate.

If parents are unable or unwilling to utilize the Special Masters program, family courts will make a family law decision unilaterally. The CRC New York State chapter has conducted this program in Broome and Tioga Counties, with the unique staff combination of a highly skilled mediation and mental help professional.

Education

Because of the high conflict, the parents are usually seen separately, not together. Each parent is asked about his/her agenda, receives education about the child's need for reduced level of conflict and a solid relationship with each parent, and is given feedback on the functional and dysfunctional aspects of his/her personality, style, and agenda items.

Parents are Encouraged to be Flexible, Not "My Way or the Highway"

Parents are encouraged to adopt a flexible position, rather than rely on a rigid stance. One universal observation made by the Special Masters is the low level of problem solving skills many parents bring to the program. Much attention is given to the introduction of solution focused models of problem solving. Effort is made to have all parties "read from the same page."

Time is given to clarifying what each parent wants and reaching a consensus as to what parents can and cannot agree to. It is common to find that because parents have been using attorneys or shouting at each other, they have not shared their agendas with each other. When they hear what each wants via the Special Masters, they frequently find their goals are not necessarily incompatible.

Case of Unseen Persons

Because conflict has been heavy and chronic prior to attending Special Masters program, there is usually a cast of unseen persons involved. When helpful and strategically necessary, children, grandparents, attorneys, and law guardians become part of the process. Parents are educated as to the nature of the legal system and how its characteristic of competitiveness is often hurtful to resolving family conflicts.

Parenting Plan

An important feature of the program is to codify the parents' agreement in the form of a "Parenting Plan" that can be reviewed by the parents' attorneys and submitted to the Family Court to be made a Stipulation and Order.

Monitoring

Equally important is the monitoring provision of the program. Parents are encouraged to contact the Special Masters if they believe any aspect of their Parenting Plan has been violated, requires clarification, or needs to be altered. Special Masters respond to requests for intervention quickly and offer accountability for parents who may be making efforts to improve their behavior. Effective means of communication between parents is taught. However, because the Parenting Plans help establish firm boundaries between the parents, the need for frequent communication is reduced.

Solutions to Criticism of Mediation

Some women's groups have criticized mediation, fearing that an aggressive ex partner might dominate the me-

Continued on page 6

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Masters Program

Continued from page 5

diation process. In truth, gender is not the issue in considering this concern. Any parent whose personality or style is characterized by passivity, lack of assertiveness or reliance on others can feel at a disadvantage.

Solutions for Family Violence Concerns

If the issue of family violence is raised, mediation is bypassed or suspended until the issue is addressed and dealt with by the courts. At that point, mediation may or may not be pursued, depending on the finding of the court as to the appropriateness of mediation. The state of Maine has successfully dealt with this problem for more than 15 years. In Maine, mediation is mandated by statute.

Numerous studies show that children do best when they have the support and love of both fit parents. New York's traditional approach of reliance on the "one size fits all" problem solving system (Family Court) induces a parentectomy – the removal of a parent from a child's life—should there be conflict.

In an era of complex social change, this "one size fits all" approach serves few. New York needs to develop and make available systematic, multiple problem solving mechanisms that serve families.

(CRC Note: In a study of two jurisdictions in different parts of the country conducted several years ago by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), it was found that mediation could be successfully conducted in some cases involving family violence. That is, mediation was not precluded because there was family violence. For more information, contact the AFCC in Madison, WI, at 608/664-3750.

Collaborative Law—A Better Way

by Tom Gordon

Excerpted with permission from the Winter 2001 Legal Reformer, a newsletter published by HALT (Help Abolish Legal Tyranny). HALT is a non-profit legal reform group at 1612 K Street N.W., Suite 510, Washington, D.C. 20005, phone 1-888-4-HALT, email; halt@halt.org

Nearly half of all marriages end up in divorce court. As anyone knows who has been involved in a messy divorce case, traditional divorce court proceedings are drawn-out, expensive, and emotionally draining for all family members involved.

Compounding the problem are divorce lawyers who fight tooth and nail to get the biggest piece of the pie for their clients, no matter what the financial and human costs.

On the rare occasions when parties do settle a divorce case out of court, it is often in the shadow of a trial under conditions of considerable tension and anxiety. In a divorce with significant assets, the cost of the divorce can range from $60,000 to $100,000.

Today there's a better way to deal with irretrievably broken marriages. It's called Collaborative Law. Pioneered in California, collaborative law allows both spouses to retain separate, specially trained lawyers whose job is to help them settle the dispute without court intervention. Neither side may go to court or even threaten to do so. If such an action or threat occurs, the process terminates and both lawyers are disqualified from any further involvement in the case.

This year HALT will launch a national campaign to expand the availability of collaborative law. "We're very excited about this promising innovation," said HALT Executive Director Jim Turner. "We will work with lawyers and consumers across the country to make collaborative law the rule rather than the exception."

The first collaborative law project was sponsored by the Superior Court in San Francisco. As presiding Family Law Judge Donna J. Hitchens explains, the program has been a tremendous success. "It's good for the courts, it's good for the litigants, it's good for their children, and it's good for the community. This is a system that empowers people to resolve their own disputes, and to do it in a more creative and more lasting manner than has ever been achieved by court order."

The parties to a divorce negotiated through the collaborative process have also expressed satisfaction with the procedure and the results. Sherry Rasmussen, who recently hired a collaborative lawyer in Minnesota, said, "I'm getting the support I need to make sure I'm being taken care of, and it gives me the strength to communicate what I need to my husband. Yet I'll be able to compromise."

HALT will study California's successful collaborative law programs, as well as the collaborative law practices currently in effect in several other states, including Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas. It will try to expand collaborative law programs in those states, as well as promote them in other states.

(CRC Thanks Maryland CRC Coordinator Harvey Walden for bringing this to CRC's attention).

Award Winning Program for Sale

Don Gorden, Ph.D. and Jack Arbuthnot, Ph.D. are retiring from the Ohio University and selling their Center for Divorce Education. See advertisement elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Center's video on parenting education was so good, CRC gave it an Active Parenting Award several years ago. The parenting video, which promotes shared parenting, is used in more than 800 court systems in the U.S.

Don Gordon is retiring from teaching to run his CD-ROM company, Family Works, in Ashland; Jack is retiring from teaching to become a gentleman farmer raising highland beef on his farm outside Athens.

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The CRC View

by David L. Levy, J.D.
President, CRC

Levy

Welfare Reform Can Strengthen Families

Remember welfare reform? It was introduced by House Republicans and signed into law by President Clinton in 1996. It was designed to end welfare entitlement, by setting strict time limits on how long a parent could obtain welfare – usually a maximum of five years, and then you had to have a job.

Welfare reauthorization is coming up in 2002, and so it is time to take a look at what welfare reform has accomplished, and what's left for it to do.

The Children's Rights Council has been interested in welfare reform because we think the right kind of reform could strengthen families through education and assistance to children of separation and divorce. CRC published an 8 page booklet in 1995 that made more than a dozen suggestions for reform, including encouragement of a work ethic. "Except for the small number of people who are genuinely unable to make any contribution to their own needs, welfare must be a supplement, not a substitute, for work," said CRC.

We argued for more two-parent involvement in federal programs, and care of children by kin. We asked that welfare workers be required to look to a capable and willing family member as a care provider for children living on the welfare dole. We said family members providing child care would constitute a positive step toward breaking the cycle of dependency and reducing the economic burden of providing benefits when family care is available.

For example, a brother might be able to care for a child of a drug abuser with or without a change of custody/guardianship, or the father of a child might be willing to provide child care with or without a change of custody while the mother works, or grandparents might be willing to care for their grandchild while the adolescent mother completes school or works.

Expansion of the access (visitation) grants is one inexpensive way to strengthen 2-parent contact and provide more resources for the child.

Access Grants Were Part of Welfare Reform

The Welfare Reform law provides $10 million a year for all 50 states and territories to share in encouraging contact between a child and his/her non-custodial parent. The average state receives about $185,000 a year. We are now in the fourth year of funding for that child access program. At $10 million a year, 4 years add up to a nice tidy sum of $40 million dollars. This is the largest federal government program that has ever existed to encourage child and non-custodial parent contact. States have been using the $40 million to provide mediation (both mandatory and voluntary), counseling of parents, parenting education, parenting plans, and neutral drop-off and pick-up of children centers and supervised visitation centers. CRC recommends an increase in funding for these programs as a part of welfare reauthorization.

Some states have worked with non-profit organizations like CRC or other community-based organizations to carry out these programs. Other states have given all their money to the courts or to state-run programs.

CRC has been working with the faith-based community, because all of our "Safe Haven" sites for children are located in church day care centers. We are increasingly involving churches and synagogues in the running of portions of the programs, while CRC provides over-all management.

The states which do the best job of accomplishing the goals of welfare reform qualify for extra federal bonuses worth up to $100 million a year. But CRC has concluded that most states do not know how to encourage family formation and family preservation. More of us need to contact our state officials to offer programs that will accomplish those goals. States can obtain extra bonuses, and we can have stronger families.

Note: Send for the CRC Welfare Reform booklet. Free to members; non-members, send $5 for S/H.

CRC and our chapters need grant and proposal writers.

Important Phone Number

The phone number for the Congressional switchboard, which will reach all offices and committees, is (202) 225-3121.

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New CD

Continued from page 1

Alan of Georgia, Darren Rhodes of Alabama, and Haddassh of New York. Keith Bradford (singer as well as owner of KMA Records), Anna Prince, Allie E., Vicki Leigh and Charlotte Bradford, are from various parts of Tennessee.

CD Release Party in Nashville Was a Terrific Event

"The CD release party in Nashville was much bigger than I expected," said Ohio CRC Coordinator Margaret Wuwert. "More than 200 artists, their families, and supporters showed up. This was a terrific event."

Harvey Walden, Maryland CRC coordinator, who also attended, said, "This is a highly professional CD that KMA records has produced."

David Courson, CRC coordinator of Tennessee, said he was "impressed" with the professionalism of the country music artists.

CRC President David L. Levy also attended the Nashville release of the CD, and said, "We are delighted that country music artists have decided to support children and CRC."

Jean Massengale especially had been working hard behind the scenes to bring artists together for about 12 months, but did not tell the national CRC office about her plans until the idea was a reality.

"If I had told anyone what I was trying to do, they would have thought I was crazy," said Massengale, whose friends call her "Sarge."

Massengale got involved with CRC in 1994, "when the late, great Sonny Burmeister, CRC Georgia coordinator, helped me in the process of gaining custody of my grandchild, when the parents were unable to take care of their children," she said. After going through the illness and death of her husband, she decided to help CRC.

CRC thanks: Keith Bradford's brother Michael, the engineer of the CD album; Keith Billbry and Alan Dennis of WSB650 radio; Bill Bailey; Carole Hall; Kriste Barfield; guest artist David Carlson; Jimmy and Lorraine Smart of Nashville Video Showcase; Charlie Ray of the International Country Music Association; Anna Prince and her daughter Sandy; Jason Hawkins and Jennifer Fox of Airplay International; and Dan Wunsch of the Nashville Music Guide.

Anna Prince hosts a community news TV show "Real Heroes of Country Music" and is in development of the show "Future Heroes of Country Music" on Nashville's CATV Channel 19. Anna interviewed Keith Bradford, Hadassah; Courson and Levy on March 17 on the "Real Heroes of Country Music" TV show. It aired multiple times on CATV channel 19 the following week.

WSM650, the national Grand Ole Opry Radio station (www.650wsm.com) also interviewed Bradford, Hadassah and Levy as well, and Alan Dennis replayed the interview multiple times over the weekend.

Airplay International's Jason Hawkins and Jennifer Fox presented their "Humanitarian Award" to Keith Bradford and Jean Massengale in an emotional ceremony at the CD release party.

KMA Records and Country Music Webs arranged for a full page ad in the Nashville Music Guide for Ernie Ashworth and Friends, and will have limited supplies of copies at the CRC conference.

Individual copies of the CD may be ordered online at www.gocrc.com, or by writing to the national CRC office at 300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002. The price is $12 per CD, including S/H.

Bulk orders of 6 or more CD's are $10 per CD, including S/H.

KMA Records can be reached at 256 East Old Hickory Kitty Wells Blvd, Madison, TN 37115, phone (615) 612-3899, or at www.KMArecords.com Additional information can be obtained at www.TNcrc.com for CRC chapters, or by sending email to Office@TNcrc.com

Country Music Artists who appear on the CRC CD "Ernie Ashworth and Friends Speak Out for the Children's Rights Council"

Front row (l to r): Sharon Brooks, Hadassah, Anna Prince; Rear: Darren Rhodes, Marc Smith, Lori Alan, Ernie Ashworth, Vicki Leigh, Charlotte Bradford, Allie C. and Keith Bradford.

The front and back of the new CD.

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Around the Country

Wade Horn Appointed to a Top HHS Job

Horn

Wade Horn Will Oversee Child Support

Wade F. Horn, Ph.D. has been nominated by President Bush to be assistant secretary of Health and Human Services for Family Support. Horn, who is well known in Washington as a former HHS official for President Bush's father, and president of the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) since 1996, will take office as soon as his appointment is confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Tommy Thompson is secretary of HHS, and under him is a Deputy Secretary, below which are several assistant secretaries, one of whom would be Wade Horn.

As assistant secretary of HHS for Family Support, Horn would have jurisdiction over the Administration for Children, Youth and Families (his former position under former President Bush). He would also be in charge of the Office of Child Support Enforcement, low income housing energy assistance program, and the administration on Native Americans. The Commissioner of Child Support has not been named. Judge David Gray Ross held that post during the Clinton years.

The mission of the National Fatherhood Initiative is "to improve the wellbeing of children by increasing the number of children growing up with involved, committed and responsible fathers in their lives."

Horn was a member of the U.S. Advisory Committee on Head Start Research and Evaluation within HHS from 1989 to 1993. He is the author of numerous journals, articles and several books, and writes a weekly column for The Washington Times, one of Washington, D.C.'s two daily newspapers.

At each of NFI's national conferences the past few years, there have been speakers on divorce and custody issues. CRC President David L. Levy and lawyer Jeffery Leving spoke in 2000, and psychologist Dick Mikesell is speaking in 2001.

NFI received a special Congressional appropriation of $3.5 million at the end of the Congressional session in December, 2000 for a nationwide media campaign to promote fatherhood.

States Urged to Modify New Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA)

[Compiled from The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws website and from recommendations from Richard Crouch, Esq., Editor, Virginia State Bar Family Law Section Newsletter.]

A proposal to revise the 1968 Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act was completed in 1997 by the Uniform Law Commissioners. The intent of the Act is to bring every state into compliance with the federal Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act. The act is intended to limit child custody jurisdiction to one state, and provides enforcement provisions for child custody orders.

Several states have already adopted the Act: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.

2001 introductions include: Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, and Maryland.

Overall, CRC strongly supports enacting the UCCJEA. However, we suggest that states adopt the bill with the following changes. All of these suggestions would preserve existing UCCJA and PKPA language by omitting some changes and exceptions that the UCCJEA makes.

- (UCCJEA Section 102 <http://patriot.net/~crouch/uccjea/102.html>)
  DEFINITIONS. "Abandoned" definition (Subsection 4) should be omitted. It is unnaturally overbroad. Present Act uses the term without a special definition, and that has worked perfectly. Used in applying the extremely broad "emergency" exception to all of the Act's other jurisdiction limitations.
- (UCCJEA SECTION 202 <http://patriot.net/~crouch/uccjea/202.html>)
  EXCLUSIVE CONTINUING JURISDICTION. Omit Subsection (A)(1). Makes statute fearsomely and unnecessarily complex, for no supportable reason, works against overall intent of UCCJA and PKPA to discourage child snatching through clear, objective rules. Defeats supposed intent to conform UCCJA to PKPA.
- (UCCJEA Section 204 <http://patriot.net/~crouch/uccjea/204.html>)
  Emergency Jurisdiction. Very good overall, but wording needs care to avoid unintended results.
- (UCCJEA Section 209 <http://patriot.net/~crouch/uccjea/209.html>) Proposal on information required to be submitted with every initial pleading. The drafting Commissioners bracketed this language to show that it was not necessarily recommended. Because it allows an interstate abductor of children to keep the child's location and abduction history secret, and rewrites a concept that has worked well in the past, care must be taken with language. The present

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unnecessarily broad and vague wording works against the overall intent of UCCJA and PKPA to discourage child snatching. Legitimate ends can be served with tighter language.

- (UCCJEA Section 30.5 <http://patriot.net/~crouch/uccjea/30.5.html>) REGISTRATION. Present system is easy and economical. New one is just the opposite, and confuses enforcement procedures with subject-matter jurisdiction decisions.
- (UCCJEA Section 110 <http://patriot.net/~crouch/uccjea/110.html>) COMMUNICATION BETWEEN JUDGES. Mandatory judge-to-judge communication is a key part of the UCCJA/PKPA system, deals with substance of jurisdiction decisions efficiently.
- (UCCJEA Section 108 <http://patriot.net/~crouch/uccjea/108.html>) METHODS OF NOTICE. The language of UCCJA, ª 20-108(A)(2a) states: "Notice may also be by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the person to be served. The new Act attempts to defer to local procedures, but inadvertently repeals procedures currently in use.
- (UCCJEA Section 106 <http://patriot.net/~crouch/uccjea/106.html>) BINDING FORCE OF A CUSTODY DECISION. This says a custody decree of any state which properly had jurisdiction will remain binding – until modified. This would be fine if it just said until modified by a court properly having jurisdiction, under the standards of this statute, which is what the UCCJA says.

Divorced Mother Drops Online Parenting Request

by Leslie Brody, Staff Writer
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A divorced Midland Park mother who sought court permission to move to California and proposed using the Internet to bolster communication between her daughter and ex-husband has decided to stay here after all.

The father had fought the long-distance move, and the two parents resolved their dispute last month before facing another trial. Attorney Charles Ryan, who represented the mother, Kyron Henn-Lee, said that she found a new computer job in New Jersey and then dropped her request to relocate with her 9-year-old daughter.

The litigation attracted a flurry of media attention in January, when an Appellate Division panel praised Henn-Lee's "creative" suggestion: a Web site and camera system that would let her daughter have daily "face-to-face" conversations with her father online, along with in-person visits during vacations. The panel told a Bergen County judge to reconsider the case and try to fashion a visitation schedule that would let the mother and daughter move.

Parenting groups expressed dismay at the prospect that the courts might start to consider "virtual visitation" to be anything akin to real parenting time. Some therapists said some children might enjoy such electronic contact as an addition to in-person visits, but it should not be considered a replacement.

Henn -Lee said she wanted to move to pursue a better-paying job with flexible hours in California, but the opportunity she found here made this unnecessary, her lawyer said. She plans to use a Web-camera hookup herself, however, for communicating with her daughter when she travels for business.

(CRC note: CRC President David L. Levy was quoted in a national Associated Press story and appeared on CBS Evening Weekend News in January stating that technology, such as mail, phone and websites should be used to assist with contact, but they cannot take the place of a child's actual time spent with a parent. We are delighted with the outcome, because it demonstrates that a parent can usually find a job close to where the other parent lives if he/she tries hard enough. Even if the job doesn't pay as much as one likes, the loss of a child's close contact with a parent is a far more expensive price to pay. Both mothers and fathers should stay in the same geographic area as the other parent).

Beat the Tax Man: Contribute to CRC

Keep working for children. If you wish to consider leaving a bequest or property to CRC, please state the following in your will: "I hereby leave the following to the Children's Rights Council: ___(state your bequest)___."

Change of Address

To keep newsletters and other materials coming, please notify CRC three weeks in advance of any address change. Send old and new addresses to CRC, 300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, DC 20002.

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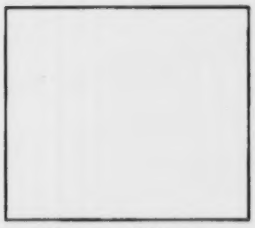
Chapter News

David Dinn Coordinator Emeritus for Indiana



Dinn (r) and Musseter

David Dinn, longtime CRC coordinator for Indiana, has become Coordinator Emeritus. David was active in custody reform in Indiana starting in 1983, before CRC began in 1985. David led his organization, Parents and Children Equality, into CRC as a chapter in 1992. He organized subgroups and held meetings in 5 different Indiana counties. Now, he continues to provide consultation to groups in Indiana and to national CRC.

Dinn was instrumental in creating the Indiana Custody and Child Support Committee, of which he was a charter member. The Committee, a part of the state legislature, recommended several changes which became part of Indiana law, including making it a criminal violation to deny visitation. It has been nearly impossible to get prosecutors to enforce the law, but there has been some success when prosecutors have sent a letter to the custodial parent informing them of the law. "We have had a number of parents thank us on behalf of themselves and their children because they were able to see their children as a result of the letters sent to the custodial parents from the prosecutors," said Dinn.

"I enjoyed the continuing friendships that have developed from my work in CRC. I urge other individuals to participate in the 2-parent movement, because in the long run, it is extremely rewarding," said Dinn.

Dinn was one of the first individuals to receive funding for work on custody reform issues – a grant from the Eli Lilly Endowment, one of the largest foundations in the country.

David has seen both sides of the aisle, as both a custodial and noncustodial parent. He said Bev Musseter has been an excellent stepmother to the Dinn children, David, Katie, and Robbie.

"David Dinn has provided continuing and earnest leadership in the movement to provide children with two parents whenever possible," said Levy. "We thank him."

Bob Monday New Indiana Coordinator

Monday

Bob Monday is the new CRC Coordinator for Indiana. Monday is a longtime advocate for the 2-parent family. "He is so well trusted that he sits on the Domestic Relations Committee meetings of the Indiana Judiciary Center, which consists of 13 judges who develop financial and parenting guidelines," said David Dinn, Coordinator Emeritus for Indiana.

"I just started going to the court house and hanging around, until they got to know me," said Monday.

A provision recommended by the Council, which went into effect on March 31, states that there shall be frequent and continuing contact between children and their parents. "For the first time, this is a rebuttable presumption for shared parenting in Indiana, and it is a statewide policy," said Monday.

James Welty Opens First-Ever Northeast Ohio Chapter

Welty

James Welty has formed a new CRC chapter in Northwest Ohio, the first ever in that part of Ohio. Jim is a corporate flyer of turboprops and corporate jets, and is a freelance flight instructor, usually out of Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) airport. He has suffered frequent denials of access to his daughter, Riley, age 2. The chapter is assisted by Bob Moline, who has helped publicize their work, Jill Koman, a non-custodial mother who has obtained meeting space at her local Presbyterian church, and Leah Turri, who writes a guest column for the Star-Beacon in Ashtabula, OH. The new chapter plans to develop a website and place "disruptive, but positive" billboard signs.

Marlin Pierce Opens First-Ever Albany Chapter

Pierce

Marlin Pierce, who has been working for custody reform for 17 years, primarily as an activist in the Fathers Rights Association of New York State, has formed a CRC chapter in the Albany area of New York. This is the first-ever CRC chapter in the New York State capital.

"In New York State, we need many changes in divorce law," said Pierce. "The divorce legal process is devastating on the lives of every person involved, the mother, the father, and, of course the children. In New York State we have very little joint custody, and only a token mediation program. Because we do not have mandatory mediation, few people complete their divorce with the mediation process. This must change."

Marlin has 2 children, Jody and Jason.

Nancy Rexford, a computer programmer, is among the chapter advisors.

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Advertisement

Family Psychology Forensic Evaluation Service (Specializing in Custody Evaluations)

Contact: S. Richard Sauber, Ph.D., ABPP, 561/750-9200

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Court Cases

Parents Cannot Modify Support Agreements as Children Come of Age

from an article by Arlo Wagner, the Washington Times, March 27, 2001

Parents cannot decide on their own to reduce child support payments when their children reach age 18, but must return to court to obtain a change in the child support order, a Virginia Court ruled Feb. 27, 2001.

The American Fathers Coalition says the decision provides lawyers with more money and judges with too much intrusive power.

"It's the Lawyers Full Employment Act," said Stuart Miller, director of the American Fathers Coalition.

"It has scared everyone," said Murray Steinberg, president of the Family Resolution Council in Richmond. "They really opened a big Pandora's box...It's not a public policy. It's a court policy."

Two of the three judges of Virginia Court of Appeals said Francis E. Shoup of Fairfax was in contempt of court and would have to pay $33,838 in back child support to his ex-wife, Heidi Shoup.

Mr. Shoup had argued that their 1994 divorce decree allowed him to reduce child support payments by one third as each of their three daughters graduated from high school or turned 18.

He reduced his $2,177 monthly payment to one-third and then by two-thirds after their first two children turned 18 and graduated in 1995 and 1997.

Mrs. Shoup, who did not initially object to the reduction, returned to court in 1999. Fairfax County Circuit Judge Kathleen H. McKay ruled in her favor and found Mr. Shoup in contempt.

That ruling was upheld by two of the three appellate judges. "The jurisdiction to make and modify child support awards is the courts," wrote Appeals Judge Rosemarie Annunziata, who was joined by Chief Judge Johanna Fitzpatrick.

"The court must approve modification to the amount of support at the time the modification is made," Judge Annunziata wrote.

In a dissenting opinion, Judge James W. Benton Jr. said the ruling undermines a previous policy that encourages ex-spouses to work out their differences voluntarily. The ruling, he said, gave divorced parents no choice but to return to court.

"If people have to keep going back, all the money that should be spent on families will go to lawyers," said Mr. Shoup's attorney, Betty A. Thompson of Arlington. "How does that help the children?"

Mrs. Thompson, who has specialized in divorce cases the last 20 years, has filed for a rehearing before the full five-member Court of Appeals. The next appeal would be to Virginia's Supreme Court.

"It is too early to make judgment" said Paul Fletcher, a Richmond lawyer and publisher of Virginia's Lawyers Weekly, adding that the rehearing might resolve the case.

"These self-executing support agreements were really quite common. People felt like it was a normal divorce they could use with kids coming of age in a couple of years," Mr. Fletcher said.

"The impact that could affect thousands of divorced persons is just beginning to trickle out across the states," Mr. Fletcher said. "The lawyers are quite concerned."

CRC note: This may have been a family order, that is, an order that contains one set amount for all children in the order, but doesn't break out how much is owed for each child. Therefore, it is not clear that as each child is emancipated, the parents or the court contemplate a one third reduction as each child is emancipated. The parents or the court would have to clearly state this and consider the age of the children. They should also consider continuing child support until the child completes high school.

We have heard of this problem in other states, e.g., CRC Maryland coordinator Harvey Walden was required to file a modification request in court to end the child support transfer to his daughter's mother when the daughter reached age 18, and had finished high school.

Query: Even if there was no agreement between the parents, shouldn't the parents be allowed to follow state law, and terminate support transfer when the child reaches majority?

CRC believes parents should support their children through college or other post-high school education and training, but believes the best way to encourage that is to have involved both parents in the raising of the child. Involved parents are paying parents.

Parental Relocation and ALI Standards for Joint Custody

A trial court did not err in changing a joint custody award to sole custody for the father, after the mother relocated out-of-state, the Vermont Supreme Court decided October 20, 2000. Among the factors in the decision were the amount of time the father spent caring for the children and the breakdown in the parties' ability to coparent them. Dissenters from the decision relied on relocation standards prepared by the American Law Institute, but the court said that applying the ALI standards for joint custody would have produced the same result

[Hoover (Letourneau) v. Hoover, Vt., No. 99-084, 10/20/00]

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Parental Relocation in Joint Custody Situation

A parent who wishes to modify a joint custody arrangement in order to relocate with his or her child is subject to the same standard that applies when deciding a relocation petition filed by a parent with sole custody, the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled December 22, 2000. On the basis of this principle, the Supreme Court denied a mother's request to relocate to New York. The divorced couple in the case before the court had shared joint legal and physical custody of their two young children until 1998, when the father requested custody, alleging that the mother's lifestyle was inappropriate.

The mother filed a cross-petition for sole custody and for leave to relocate with the children. The mother said that she had secured employment in New York, and that her income would increase with the new job. The judge in the lower court ruled that it was not in the children's best interest to set aside the joint custody arrangement. The children's quality of life would not be improved in New York, and their best interests did not favor such a move, the lower court found.

[Brown (Morales) v. Brown, Neb., No. S-99-144, 12/22/00]

Child Support Recovery Act Held Unconstitutional

Congress's power under the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution did not warrant its enactment of the Child Support Recovery Act, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York held Feb. 8. The Act made it a federal crime punishable by up to two years' imprisonment to fail to pay a child support obligation pursuant to a state judicial or administrative order, whenever the defendant and the child live in different states.

The case before the court arose out of the indictment of a Texas man for failing to make support payment for his daughter, who lives with her mother in New York. A settlement had been negotiated under which the man would repay the City of New York for welfare payments made to the mother during the relevant period, and would pay the mother $100,000. However, the government contended that the restitution element was a separate issue from the purely punitive elements of the Act.

The District Court held that the alleged justification for the Act, the power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce, was not persuasive. The Act exceeded the permissible limits of Congress's Commerce Clause power, the court said, and it granted the obligor's motion to dismiss the indictment.

[United States v. King, S.D.N.Y., No. S1 00 Cr. 653 (RWS), 2/8/01]

Child Support Paid by Non-Father

A juvenile court cannot order the state of Tennessee to repay a man the support he paid as reimbursement for a child's welfare benefits, despite the fact that he later discovered that the child was not his, the Tennessee Court of Appeals held February 16. The Court of Appeals said juvenile courts did not have jurisdiction to award money judgements against the state in such situations. The man involved had been married to the mother, and mistakenly thought that the child was his. After the divorce, tests showed that the man was not his father, and the man sought an end to his support obligation, which had been in effect for three years. The appeals court ruled that he was entitled to prospective relief from the obligation, but it refused to order the state to repay him for all support paid.

[White v. State ex rel. Armstrong, Tenn. Ct. App., No. M1999-00713-COA-R3-CV, 2\16\01]

The above cases are summarized from Family Law Reporter, published by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. They appear here by permission of the publisher.

National Child's Day

By the time you receive this newsletter, the U.S. Senate should have passed a resolution designating the first Sunday in June as "National Child's Day." This year, National Child's Day falls on June 3.

The U.S. is one of the few countries in the world that does not have a day especially set aside for children, in the way that Mother's Day and Father's Day are designated days.

This is the third year in a row that the Senate will have passed a Child's Day Resolution. We hope that President Bush will use the Resolution as a basis for declaring a permanent observance of "National Child's Day."

We ask CRC members to hold observances, barbecues, church socials, and other events to celebrate Children's Day this year on June 3. Send us photographs of the children and adults who are participating in the event. We will publish some of the photos in future issues of the CRC newsletter.

CRC and a group called FOCUS in Miami, Florida, headed by child activist Lee Rechter, are working to promote children's day activities.

CRC Wants Chapters in Every State

CRC wants chapters in every state! Go CRC!

For development of chapters in states that do not yet have any CRC chapters, contact Margaret Wuwert, CRC Coordinator for Ohio, who is helping CRC with chapter development. Contact Margaret at 2745 Sagamore Road, Toledo, Ohio 43606; phone 419/473-8955.

If your state already has a chapter, call the State Coordinator in the chapter heads listing in this letter; or call the national CRC office at 202-547-6227.

Join CRC, then ask for a copy of the 100 page CRC booklet that explains everything you need to know about affiliation. The cost of the booklet is $12.

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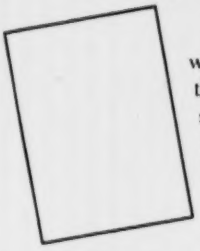
Book Nook

Breaking Apart — A Memoir of Divorce

by Wendy Swallow. 292 pages, hardback, $24.00. Published by Hyperion, New York.



This book, an excerpt of which is due to appear in the May *Reader's Digest*, stems from an article appearing in *Washingtonian Magazine* several years ago. She originally thought sole custody would be best for her children, but when her ex-husband insisted on joint custody, she finally agreed, and "I have learned over time that it has been the best way to raise our boys."

She told CRC, "I think every child has a relationship with both their parents, however challenging that may be. There should be a presumption for joint legal and physical custody in every state. That is what I have learned from co-parenting with my former husband for the past 9 years."

Wendy and her ex-husband's two boys are now 12 and 13, and she says "they are wonderfully adjusted kids."

In the book, Wendy Swallow, writing in a style that is both piercingly honest and profoundly moving, traces the arc of her marriage to a complex man ten years her senior.

She looks into her own heart and at her childhood and young adulthood as a way of understanding the relationship and its ultimate breakdown. She also examines her struggle to balance her burgeoning career and the demands of motherhood.

And then she writes of divorce: the hopeful fantasies she conjured while still in her marriage, as well as the harsh realities she faced when she and her husband finally separated. "People say marriages break up," writes Swallow, "but mine finally broke down."

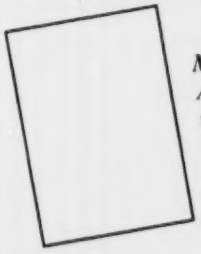
Swallow illuminates the overwhelming financial and emotional stresses of divorce, the daily, unforeseen difficulties. But she writes too of the joys of independence and renewal. Her journey through divorce's rough terrain—and the triumphant reconstruction of her life after divorce—offer encouragement and inspiration to anyone struggling with a marriage, as well as an insightful literary portrait of what it is to relinquish the comfort and security of a long-held dream.

A former staff writer for the Washington Post, Wendy Swallow is currently a journalism professor at American University and a freelance writer. A divorced mother of two, Swallow lives in Kensington, Maryland, outside of Washington, D.C.

Note: A portion of Wendy Swallow's book is not the only item scheduled for the May Reader's Digest. Also look for a portrait of former federal Child Support Commissioner Judge David Gray Ross, and his support for the 2-parent family.

Father and Child Reunion: How to Bring the Dads We Need to the Children We Love

by Warren Farrell, Ph.D. 300 pages, hardback. $25 Tarcher/Putnam, a member of Penguin Putnam.



The author of *Why Men Are the Way They Are* demolishes conventional wisdom about the nature of fatherhood and shows how the courts, media, and government create subtle, immensely powerful undercurrents that separate men from their children.

Anyone who cares about the nature of fatherhood today, anyone interested in the legal and emotional issues that divide fathers from children, anyone viewing fatherhood from the perspective of a journalist, social worker, or lawmaker, and any single, married, or divorced parent needs to read this thoughtful and engaging book.

Dr. Warren Farrell argues-with surprising and convincing evidence drawn from court cases, law-enforcement records, national statistics, and therapeutic case studies—that the judicial system, media, and government often make dads "the enemy." Fathers enjoy no parenting rights within the legal system and even in other, less typically confrontational arenas-such as the public education system-a wide range of unreported forces divide fathers from their children.

For all its explosive conclusions, *Father and Child Reunion* ultimately calls for a rejoining of families and of children with parents who can care for them. Dr. Farrell has written a significant book on a vital issue facing men, women, and families today.

Warren Farrell, Ph.D., is the author of Women Can't Hear What Men Don't Say and The Myth of Male Power. Dr. Farrell taught at the School of Medicine at the University of California in San Diego, and has taught psychology, sociology, and political science at Georgetown, Rutgers, and Brooklyn College. He is the only man elected three times to the board of N.O.W. in New York City.

Intellectual Property Protection

Charlie Ruggiero, who obtained trademark protection for the name and logo "Children's Rights Council" and the name and logo for our newsletter "Speak Out for Children" is a specialist in trademark, patent, copyright, and licensing law. He is a partner in the law firm of Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero and Perle, 1 Landmark Square, Suite 903, Stamford, CT 06901, telephone (203) 327-6067.

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Children's Rights Council

2001 CATALOG OF RESOURCES
for parents and professionals

MANY BOOKS DISCOUNTED!
Buy at Discount & Sell for Full Price to Your Group
Make $$$ or Give Copies to Educate Judges or Policymakers
Discounted Books Are in Bold Type

BOOKS FOR KIDS

A Heart Full of Love, written by Bette S. Margolis, illustrated by Christie L. Kline. A wonderful book for that special 7- to 9-year-old in your life who is undergoing parental divorce.
SB-101 ---------- **$15.00**

I Love You More Than..., by Elizabeth Hickey and James Cohen. Illustrated by Lynda Smart Brown, 1998.
HB-102 ---------- **$16.95**

Daddy Day, Daughter Day, by CNN's Larry King and Chaia King, 1997. A true story of divorce told through both a child's and a father's perspective.
SB-103 ---------- **$12.95**

How to Survive Your Parent's Divorce: Kids Advice to Kids, by Gayle Kimball, 1994. Easy-to-read one-of-a-kind guide for young people and their parents as they reshape their lives post-divorce.
SB-104 ..... **Reg. $9.95** ***Discount Price $4.00**

I Think Divorce Stinks, by Marcia Lebowitz, 1992. Helps children recognize that it is appropriate to have negative feelings about divorce and to express those feelings.
SB-105 ---------- **$4.95**

What am I Doing in a Stepfamily?, by Claire Berman, 1994. A children's book explaining how two families can be better than one.
SB-106 ---------- **$12.00**

It's Not Your Fault, Koko Bear, by Vicki Lansky, 1998. Koko Bear can help children understand divorce and sends a good message.
SB-107 ---------- **$5.99**

The Divorce Workbook, by Sally Ives, David Fassler & Michelle Lasch, 1985. How to facilitate honest and open communication between adults and children at the traumatic time of separation and divorce. Q and A for kids.
SB-108 ---------- **$15.95**

My Book, My Self for Boys, by Linda Madaras and Area Madaras, 1995. The "What's Happening to My Body for Boys."
SB-109 ..... **Reg. $11.95** ***Discount Price $6.00**

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

NEW!
The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce—A 25-Year Landmark Study, by Judith S. Wallerstein, Julia M. Lewis, and Sandra Blakeslee, 2000. The best-selling book that says many children of divorce suffer long-term effects from divorce.
SB-200 ---------- **$24.95**

50/50 Parenting, by Gayle Kimball, Ph.D. Almost 300 co-parents and 83 children report on life in married, divorced, and step-family situations.
SB-201 ---------- **$9.95**

Divorce Book for Parents, by Vicki Lansky, 1987. Warmly supportive and reassuring, this comprehensive guide speaks to all divorced and divorcing parents.
HB-203 ---------- **$6.00**

The Divorce Help Source Book, by Margorie Engel, 1994. Combines sound advice with hundreds of potential sources of help to assist you in getting the results you deserve.
SB-204 ..... **Reg. $17.95** ***Discount Price $7.00**

Divorced Dads, Shattering the Myths, by Sanford L. Braver, Ph.D., 1998. The surprising truth about fathers, children and divorce.
HB-205 ---------- **$24.95**

For the Sake of the Children, by Kris Kline and Stephen Pew, 1992. Discusses how to share your children with your ex-spouse despite your anger. Kline is CRC's Florida coordinator. PHOTOCOPIES ONLY!
HB-206 ..... **Reg. $18.95** ***Discount Price $9.00**

Divorce: Crisis, Challenge, or Relief?, by David A. Chiriboga and Linda S. Catron, 1991. Addresses the impact of divorce on children through different stages of their lives.
SB-207 ..... **Reg. $22.50** ***Discount Price $5.00**

Why Parents Disagree: How Women and Men Parent Differently and How We Can Work Together, by Dr. Ron Taffel, 1994. An explanation of why parents begin to lead different lives and how parents can raise kids as partners, not enemies.
SB-208 ---------- $23.00

The Good Divorce, by Constance R. Ahrons, Ph.D., 1994. An outstanding book with a powerful message: while divorce is not 'good,' there is a path to a 'good divorce' where parents cooperate fully for the sake of their children.
HB-209 ---------- $23.00

A Hole in My Heart, by Claire Berman, 1991. A book that will enable adult children of divorce to recognize the role they play in changing patterns in their lives.
SB-210 ..... Reg. $10.00 *Discount Price $5.00

Families Apart, by Melinda Blau, 1993. 10 Keys to Successful Co-Parenting. A blend of the author's own research, and that of other experts, and rich in anecdotal information.
SB-211 ..... Reg. $22.95 *Discount Price $10.00

REVISED!

Mom's House, Dad's House, by Isolina Ricci, Ph.D., 1998. Making shared custody work: How parents can make two homes for their children after divorce. 100 **New** pages to this classic book!
SB-212 ---------- $20.00

Negotiating Love: How Women and Men Can Resolve Their Differences, by Riki Robbins Jones, 1995. Points out destructive habits by both sexes which, when realized, strengthen families and relationships.
SB-213 ---------- $14.00

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Surviving Divorce, by Paula Weintraub and Terry Hillman, 1996.
SB-214 ..... Reg. $16.95 *Discount Price $7.00

Putting Kids First, by Michael Oddenino. A must read for caring parents and professionals, by CRC's General Counsel. Includes a children's bill of rights.
SB-215 ---------- $9.95

Second Chances, by Judith Wallerstein and Sandra Blakeslee, 1989. Based on ten year longitudinal study of the effects of divorce on adults and children.
HB-216 ..... Reg. $14.95 *Discount Price $5.00

Surviving the Break-Up, How Children and Parents Cope with Divorce, by Judith Wallerstein, Ph.D. and Joan Kelly, Ph.D., 1980. A classic that is still valid in discussing the problems of children being raised by single parents.
SB-217 ..... Reg. $14.00 *Discount Price $10.00

REVISED!

Creating a Successful Parenting Plan, by Dr. A. Jayne Major. Nationally acclaimed author of "Breakthrough Parenting" and "Winning the Custody War Without Casualties"
SB-218 ---------- $24.95

3 Steps to a Strong Family, by Linda and Richard Eyre, 1994. A 3-step program that can make your family life happier, less stressful, and more rewarding.
HB-219 ---------- $19.50

Familyhood: Nurturing the Values that Matter, by Dr. Lee Salk, 1992. A practical, inspiring guide to communicating values.
HB-220 ..... Reg. $21.00 *Discount Price $10.00

The Best Parent is Both Parents: A Guide to Shared Parenting in the 21st Century, the CRC book edited by David L. Levy. Order bulk copies (10 or more) for only $4 a copy, resell the copies for the list price of $10 each, and make a profit for you or your organization! Individual copies will continue to be available from CRC for $10 each, plus $4 for postage, as long as supplies last. If you would like copies (individual or bulk order) autographed by David L. Levy, just state to whom you would like it autographed (yourself, perhaps your children—give their names).
SB-221 ------ Order 10 copies or more each only $4.00
---------- Individual copies $10.00

Helping Your Kids Cope With Divorce, by M. Gary Neuman, L.M.H.C. 1996. This book is based on the nationally renowned "Sandcastles" workshop.
HB-222 ---------- $25.00

The Sibling Society, by Robert Bly, 1996, author of "Iron John." Describes our culture as one where adults remain children, and children have no desire to become adults—a nation of squabbling siblings.
HB-223 ..... Reg. $25.00 *Discount Price $12.00

NEW!

Ceasefire, by Cathy Young, 1999, syndicated columnist. Why women and men must join forces to achieve true equality; how that will help children, too.
HB-224 ---------- $25.00

Saying No Is Not Enough, by Richard Schwebel, Ph.D., 1989. Raising children who make wise decisions about drugs and alcohol.
SB-225 ---------- $11.00

Abolition of Marriage, by Maggie Gallagher, 1996, syndicated columnist. How we destroy lasting love.
HB-226 ---------- $25.00

Friends for Life, by Susan Jonas and Marilyn Nissenson, 1997. Enriching the bond between mothers and their adult daughters.
HB-227 ---------- $29.00

Talking Back to Ritalin, by Peter R. Breggin, M.D., 1998, 4-time guest on Oprah. What doctors aren't telling you about the dangers of stimulants.
HB-228 ---------- $25.00

The Assault on Parenthood, by Dana Mack, 1997. The author, a scholar at the Institute for American Values, describes how our culture undermines the family.
HB-229 ..... Reg. $25.00 *Discount Price $10.00

Babyhood, by Paul Reiser, 1997. This is not a how-to-book. It contains humorous stories by the star, co-creator and executive producer of the NBC Series *Mad About You*. Reiser's first book, *Couplehood*, was a #1 New York Times bestseller list.
HB-230 .....Reg. $22.00
*Discount Price $10.00

Working Fathers, by James A. Levine, CRC Advisor, and Todd L. Pittinsky. A guide to help fathers as well as mothers, employees and managers, succeed in managing the competitive demands of home and work.
HB-231 ..... Reg. $23.00 *Discount Price $10.00

The War Against Parents, by Sylvia Ann Hewlett and Cornel West. Praised by CRC in a letter to the Washington Post Book World when the book was published in 1998.
HB-232 $24.00 *Discount Price $10.00

The Divorce Culture, by Barbara Dafoe Whitehead (1996). Worth reading for its insightful views of marriage and divorce, but deficient in not recognizing the phenomenon of the "forced away" and "pushed away" parents.
HB-233 ..... Reg. $24.00 *Discount Price $10.00

Business Dad, by Tom Hirschfeld. How Good Businessmen Can Make Great Fathers (and Vice Versa), 1999. Recommended by Stephen R. Covey author of *The 7 habits of Highly Effective People*, and by James A. Levine, director, The Fatherhood Project, Families and Work Institute.
HB-218 ..... Reg. $17.25 *Discount Price $10.00

Ask the Children, by Ellen Galinsky, president of the Families and Work Institute, 1999. What America's Children Really Think about Working Parents.
HB-235 ---------- Reg. $25.00
*Discount Price $10.00

BOOKS FOR STEPPARENTS

How to Win as a Stepfamily, by Emily Visher, Ph.D. and John Visher, M.D., 1982. The co-founders of the Stepfamily Association of America answer questions and give suggestions on how to make stepfamilies work.
HB-301 ---------- $13.95

Making it as a Stepparent, New Roles/ New Rules, by Claire Berman, 1986. Former president of the Stepfamily Association of America provides practical help and insights.
SB-302 ---------- $7.95

Stepfamilies Stepping Ahead, edited by Mala Burt for the Stepfamily Association of America.
SB-303 ---------- $9.95

BOOKS FOR GRANDPARENTS

Grandparenting in a Changing World, by Edna LeShan, 1997. "Common sense presented with uncommon grace." — Kirkus Reviews.
SB-401 Reg. $12.00 _____
*Discount Price $6.00

Grandparents as Parents: A Survival Guide for Raising a Second Family, by Sylvie de Toledo and Deborah Edler Brown. A "how-to" manual for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.
HB-403 ---------- Reg. $17.00

BOOKS FOR SINGLE PARENTS

Still a Dad, The Divorced Father's Journey, by CRC's own Serge Prengel, 1998. Published with praise from Warren Farrell, Karen DeCrow, and James A. Cook.
SB-2501 ---------- $13.95

Surviving Divorce—Women's Resources After Separation, by Mavis Maclean, 1991. Women coping with earnings, maintenance and welfare in the U.S., France, and Great Britain.
HB-502 ---------- $5.00

Another Way Home: A Single Father's Story, by John Thorndike, 1996. A memoir of Thorndike's life with his wife and the difficult decisions he has had to make regarding their son's life.
HB-503 ..... Reg. $24.00 *Discount Price $12.00

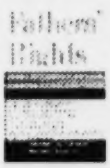
Fatherless America, by David Blankenhorn, 1995. Shows the devastating consequences of fatherlessness in both individual families and in our society.
HB-504 ..... Reg. $23.00 *Discount Price $10.00

The Masculine Mystique: The Politics of Masculinity, by Andrew Kimbrell, 1995. Presents the argument that American men are in crisis and includes what lead to this phenomenon.
HB-505 ..... Reg. $23.00 *Discount Price $10.00

The Daddy Track and the Single Father, by Geoffery L. Greif, 1990. A book about successfully coping with kids, housework, a job, an ex-wife, a social life, and the courts.
HB-506 ---------- $19.95

Money-Smart Divorce, What Women Need to Know about Money and Divorce, by Esther M. Berger, 1996.
SB-507 ---------- $22.00

Why Men Are the Way They Are, by Warren Farrell, 1986. Provides insights into loved one's secret insights and desires.
SB-509 ..... Reg. $5.99 *Discount Price $3.00



Fathers' Rights, by Jeffrey Leving. A best-selling book for fathers who want to maintain contact with their children.
SB-510 ---------- $12.50

The Divorced Parent: Success Strategies for Raising Your Children After Separation, by Stephanie Marston, 1994. Provides practical advice and specific tools for raising well-adjusted children.
HB-511 ---------- $21.00

Like Father, Like Son, By Hunter S. Fulghum, 1996. A collection of stories on being a man at midlife in America, with introduction by Robert Fulghum.
HB-512 ..... Reg. $21.95 *Discount Price $11.00

Child Custody Made Simple, by Webster Watnik, 1997. Answers all your questions about child custody and child support for a single parent.
SB-513 ---------- $21.95

The Single Parent's Money Guide, by Emily Card, 1996. A plan for managing your money when you are the only one your family can count on.
SB-514 ..... Reg. $14.95 *Discount Price $6.00

Questions from Dad, by CRC Spokesperson and pop singer Dwight Twilley, 1994. A very cool way to communicate with your child. Introduced by Dr. Susan Forward.
SB-515 ---------- $17.00

I Am the Mother of Sons. Poems by Jayne Jaudon Ferrer, 1996. Illustrated by Lina Levy.
HB-516 ---------- $10.00

Men on Divorce—The Other Side of the Story, edited by Penny Kaganoff and Susan Spano, 1997.
SB-517 ..... Reg. $12.00 *Discount Price $6.00

One Swell Dad, by Pat Ross, 1992. The book of memories and expressions of fatherly endearment from the past.
HB-518 ---------- $9.00

MEDIATION & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Family Evaluations in Child Custody, Mediation, Arbitration and Litigation, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1989. In this update, Gardner proposes a three-phase system to remove child custody evaluations from courtroom litigation.
HB-601 ---------- $45.00

Healing Hearts, Helping Children and Adults Recover from Divorce, by Elizabeth Hickey, M.S.W., CRC's National Parent Education Director, and Elizabeth Dalton, attorney and mediator
HB-602 ---------- $15.00

Parent Vs. Parent: How You and Your Child Can Survive the Custody Battle, by Stephen P. Herman, M.D., 1990. Expert advice for parents through all stages of the divorce process.
HB-603 ---------- $20.95

Between Love and Hate, A Guide to Civilized Divorce, by Lois Gold, M.S.W., 1992. Learn the fundamental skills of negotiation conflict resolution and mediation, for everyone's good.
SB-604 ..... Reg. $13.95 *Discount Price $6.00

LEGAL ISSUES

NEW!
From Courtship to Courtroom: What Divorce Law Is Doing to Mariage, by Jed H. Abraham, 2000. Abraham, a lawyer, mediator, and joint custody advocate, writes a chilling picture of how today's divorce laws make life miserable for families.
SB-701 ---------- $15.00

A Family Divided, by Robert Mendelson, 1997. A discussion of a divorced father's struggle with the child custody industry.
HB-703 ---------- Reg. $21.00
***Discount Price $10.00**

The Custody Revolution, by Richard Warshak, 1992. The Father Factor and the Motherhood Mystique.
HB-704 ..... Reg. $21.00 *Discount Price $15.00

Custody for Fathers, by Carleen and Michael Brennan, 1994. Includes more than 100 strategies that have helped fathers win (share) custody of their children in a mom-biased system.
HB-705 ..... Reg. $24.95 *Discount Price $12.00

Divorce and the Myth of Lawyers, by Lenard Marlow, J.D., 1992. The exposition of myths regarding the legal system and its effects on divorcing couples.
HB-706 ---------- **$10.95**

The Father's Emergency Guide to Divorce/Custody Battle, A Tour Through the Predatory World of Judges, Lawyers, Psychologists and Social Workers in the Subculture of Divorce, by Robert Seidenberg, with the legal insights of Williams Dawes, Esq., 1997.
SB-707 ---------- **$15.00**

Every Parent's Guide to the Law, by Deborah L. Forman. Everything you need to know about legal issues affecting parents and children pre-birth through the child-rearing years.
SB-708 ---------- **$18.00**

Divorce Yourself, the National No-Fault Divorce Kit, by Daniel Sitarz, 3rd ed. 1993. Everything you and your spouse will need to obtain your divorce without using a lawyer. Instructions, easy-to-use legal forms, checklists, and courtroom guidelines. Legally valid in all 50 states and D.C.
SB-709 ..... **Reg. $24.95** ***Discount Price $15.00**

PARENTAL KIDNAPPING

Autographed Copies!
They Are My Children, Too, by Catherine Meyer, 1999. Powerful account of a mother's loss of her children. A case of international parental kidnapping. Written by CRC's new Honorary President.
HB-801 ---------- **$23.00**

When Parents Kidnap, by Geoffrey Greif and Rebecca Hegar, 1993. This book captures the experiences of parents searching for their children and abductors who have taken them; also makes public policy recommendations.
HB-802 ---------- **$22.95**

CHILD ABUSE

Ashes to Ashes...Families to Dust, by Dean Tong, 1996. False accusations of child abuse: A road map for survivors that helps to answer their questions.
SB-901 ---------- **$15.95**

The Parental Alienation Syndrome, A guide for mental health and legal professionals, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1995. An authoritative work on the Parental Alienation Syndrome.
SB-903 ---------- **$35.00**

NEW!
Therapeutic Interventions for Children with Parental Alienation Syndrome, by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. (2001). This is a book for therapists working with families where children are alienated from a parent.
SB-904 ---------- **$40.00**

Children Held Hostage, Dealing with Programmed and Brainwashed Children, by Stanley S. Clawar, Ph.D., C.C.S. and Brynne Rivlin, M.S.S., 1991. This book is approved by the American Bar Association.
SB-905 ---------- **$50.00**

Recognizing Child Abuse, by Douglas Besharov, Ph.D., a resident scholar of the American Enterprise Institute. A comprehensive guide to recognizing, preventing, and handling child abuse and neglect.
SB-906 ---------- **$12.00**

The Book of David, How Preserving Families Can Cost Children's Lives, by Richard Gelles, 1996. A convincing and dramatic book about the flaws of the child welfare system.
HB-907 ---------- **$23.00**

Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy, by Alex V. Levin, MD., and Mary S. Sheridan, 1995. Issues in Diagnosis and Treatment. Deliberate creation or false reporting of illness, to gain attention for the caretaker. This is a form of child abuse.
HB-908 ..... **Reg. $60.00**
***Discount Price $30.00**

The Abuse Excuse—And Other Cop-Outs, by noted lawyer Alan Dershowitz, 1994. Sob stories and evasions of responsibility.
HB-909 ..... **Reg. $23.00** ***Discount Price $10.00**

PSYCHOLOGY

Father/Daughter, Mother/Son, by Verena Kast, 1997. Self-Help/Psychology. A modern analysis of parent-child relationships and their psychological effects — both negative and positive.
SB-1001 ---------- **$13.00**

VIDEOS

Children: The Experts on Divorce, by Elizabeth Hickey, MSW 1994. The children speak from their own experience of going through their parents' divorce. A CRC-award winning video prepared by CRC's National Parent Education Director.
V101 ---------- **$25.00**

Don't Forget The Children, by the Dallas, Texas Association of Young Lawyers. A CRC award-winning video that provides information on co-parenting in the event of divorce.
V102 ---------- **$20.00**

Psychotherapeutic & Legal Approaches To Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS), by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. An in-depth discussion of ways that parents can alienate the child against the other parent.
V103 ---------- **$25.00**

REPORTS

Interference with Access (Visitation) as a Tort. Updated 1997. Not a frequent remedy, but one that may be available.
R101 ---------- $10.00

Parenting Plans. Three different parenting plans that can help you and other parents.
R102 ---------- $10.00

Joint Custody as a Child's Right—a law review article (1988), a legal brief with citations up to 1994 and a report by Section 16 of the American Psychological Association describing "favorable outcomes" for children with joint custody (1995)
R103 ---------- $10.00

Send for a list of other reports.

PINS AND BUTTONS

The famous "Children First" pin. 8 colors, with figures of seven children standing on a field of green with logo "Children First." Two prongs. 3/4" high, 1-1/2" wide.
P101 ---------- $8.00

Button created by Patti Diroff that says "Child support is more than a check, it's being a parent." With CRC logo, including children's faces. 4 colors, round, 2-1/4" diameter.
B202 ---------- $2.00

T-SHIRTS

CRC 4-color t-shirts say "Help Stop Crime, Give Children 2 Parents" Specify size: child S, M, L; Adult S, M, L, XL. Specify color: white or blue.
---- $10 adults, $8 children

MUGS

Each white ceramic mug says "Children's Rights Council" and "The Best Parent is Both Parents." A Mark Roseman creation.
---------- $8 each or two for $15.
Add $2 for shipping first mug, $1 each additional mug.

BUMPER STICKERS

The Best Parent is Both Parents, white printing on a black background.
----------$1 apiece, 6 for $5.00

Order Form

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$1.00 each addtl. item _____
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Suite 401
Washington, D.C. 20002-4389
Phone your order to CRC at 202/547-6227
Fax your order to CRC at 202/546-4272

SHIP ORDER TO:

NAME: _____ **ADDRESS:** _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

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Equal Parents' Week
The CRC's National Mandate for a 2-Parent Focus
September 24–September 30, 2001
"Just Say Yes!" to Shared Parenting

Spread the word to family, friends, and other organizations to join us in making our message "The Best Parents Is Both Parents" during Equal Parents' Week stronger than ever this year by tying purple ribbons throughout Equal Parents' Week. On Wednesday, September 26, 2001 at 8:30 p.m. "A Moment In Our Hearts, A Moment Of Solidarity" will be held nationally and internationally, by holding candlelight vigils. For persons who cannot attend a public vigil, we urge you to hold your own "Home Vigils" to add your voices and strengthen the message we are sending. Last year, 25 states throughout the United States and six foreign countries—Canada, England, Spain, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile—held public candlelight vigils, "Home Vigils," and tied purple ribbons.

The Equal Parents' Week message is spreading and is being observed at other times by other organizations. On March 14, 2001, the Empire State Building in New York City was illuminated in red and blue lights through the joint efforts of the New York City CRC Chapter and the Father's Rights Association NYS, Inc. in declaring that day Equal Parents' Day. In addition, purple ribbons were worn to signify a child's natural right to both parents. (See additional information on page 25.)

Equal Parents' Week advocates that a 2-parent focus should be established as our national priority, maximizing the involvement that both parents are willing and able to contribute in raising their children, and promoting the ability of both parents to meet all their children's needs without compromising or imposing financial impediments to nonfinancial forms of child support.

To call attention to 2-parent focus is the "Just Say Yes! to shared parenting" campaign. "Just Say Yes" calls attention to the problem of parental "veto" which unreasonably and arbitrarily defeats shared parenting and all too often deprives children from the contact they need and deserve from loving and responsible parents through laws or judicial discretion. Vetoing shared parenting is a negative choice.

The response of statutes and judges should instead require parents to make a choice to exercise their first responsibility as a parent...to "just say yes" to making a commitment to doing what is truly in children's best interests...to "just say yes" to unconditionally loving and sacrificing for their children...and that means, "Just Say Yes!" to shared parenting.

For those who would like to keep their purple ribbons tied permanently and send this message year-round, we want to encourage you to do this and we want to know if you're doing it! Every voice counts and every purple ribbon sends a message.

Tie ribbons to your car radio antenna, to the door of your house or apartment, or to your briefcase.

Please contact the National Coordinator, Patti Diroff, at (909) 591-3689 and at pattidiroff@worldnet.att.net to let her know if you are tying/holding purple ribbon activities and holding candlelight vigils or "Home Vigils" so they can be included in the international press release. You can also use the sign up links for activities on the Equal Parents' Week website at http://members.tripod.com/epweek

Order Parenting Time Calendars

Judges in Lucas County, Ohio have approved the use of a calendar for parenting time issues decided in court. The calendar was developed by CRC of Ohio. Various colored blocks on the calendar represent time between the child and the non-custodial parent that is spent together (green), times missed (red), and special times (blue). The calendar makes it easy to record these times, and you can show the calendar in court, if you have to. Order from CRC of Ohio, 4069 West Sylvania St., Toledo, OH 43623. $10 plus $4 shipping, total of $14. For orders of 10 or more for your group, the total shipping charge is $8 total.

Get a 3.9 percent CRC Credit Card

Get the CRC VISA Credit Card, and obtain a low 3.9 percent introductory rate. The credit card displays the CRC logo, and CRC receives a small contribution every time you use the card. CRC receives more if you break up a large purchase into several small purchases. For an application, contact CRC, or call MBNA at 1-800-523-7666. If you have trouble obtaining approval, contact CRC; we can't guarantee approval, but we will gladly try.

Contact Other CRC Members by E-mail

Send and receive e-mail from other CRC members around the country.

If you are a CRC member, e-mail the following message to Harry Prillaman, CRC Coordinator for Georgia, who is supervising this service. He can be reached at ppilla@us.ibm.com

Dear Harry. I am a national CRC member who would like to join the crc-general@egroups.com distribution list.

Thanks,

Your name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address

Call the CRC national office at 202-547-6227 or fax 202-546-4272 to make sure your national membership is current.

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Available on Audio Cassette

Children's Rights Council's 13th National Conference

Shared Parenting—It Makes Sense

May 3-6, 2001
Bethesda, Maryland

CRC Audio Cassette List:

- ☐ CRC 101 The Perspective on Families: How Foundations, Government Agencies and Non-Profit Organizations View Family Issues -Moore, Haskins, Kaiser, Smith, Mellgren, Perrin, Gallagher, Levy
- ☐ CRC 102 Grandparents Are Parents, Too! -Castagno
- ☐ CRC 103 Parents: The Key to Student Success -Hodge
- ☐ CRC 104 Focused Thinking in Parenting: Teaching Children to Think and Solve Problems Successfully -Posthumus
- ☐ CRC 105 Gender Politics and Shared Parenting -Young
- ☐ CRC 106 Developments on Capitol Hill that Affect Children and Families Panel -Hill staffers
- ☐ CRC 107 The New American Family: What Was Wrong With the Old One? -Kathleen Parker
- ☐ CRC 108 Creative Writing Group: "Telling Your Story of Loss, Hope, and Renewal" -Roseman
- ☐ CRC 109 Dads and Stepdads Parenting with Moms and Stepmoms -Engel
- ☐ CRC 110 Parental Conflict Resolution -Cooper
- ☐ CRC 111 Financial Child Support: Obligation or Burden? -Kaiser
- ☐ CRC 112 Still a Dad: The Divorced Father's Journey -Prengel
- ☐ CRC 113 Developmentally Effective Parenting Plans -Stahl
- ☐ CRC 114 Healthy Men, Healthy Fathers, Healthy Families -Bartlett
- ☐ CRC 115 The Politics of Parenting -Baskerville
- ☐ CRC 116 A New Administration: A Return to Dignity for Families -Crouch
- ☐ CRC 117 Parallel Parenting Strategies: Keys for Success in High Conflict Divorces -Mikesell
- ☐ CRC 118 Generative Parenting: Seeking Peace in the Mediation of Divorce -Rogers, Leving
- ☐ CRC 119 ADVOCACY: Playing a Responsible Role -Henry
- ☐ CRC 120 False Allegations of Parental Alienation -Darnall
- ☐ CRC 121 Establishing and Operating Successful 'Safe Haven' Child Transfer and Supervised Access Centers -Banner, Cady, Huerter, Wall, Wuwert, Ellis
- ☐ CRC 122 Should Access be Provided to Kidnappers after Children have been Recovered, and if So, Under What Circumstances -Dabbagh
- ☐ CRC 123 Alienation: How it Feels; What we should Do About It! -Holstein
- ☐ CRC 124 Alienation and Malpractice: A Case Study -Gidding
- ☐ CRC 125 Caught in the Crossfire: Dispelling Myths About Child Abuse and Custody Cases -Tong
- ☐ CRC 126 In the Best Interests of Children & Families -Judges
- ☐ CRC 127 Creative Process Group: "What are We Taking Home?" -Prengel
- ☐ CRC 128 Moments to Memories: Creating Legacies for Families of Divorce -Isham
- ☐ CRC 129 Rebuilding the Bond -Stuart-Mills Hock
- ☐ CRC 130 A Working Vision of Cost Shares: Child Support Guidelines -Rogers, Bieniewicz
- ☐ CRC 131 Why Supervised Visitation? -Olesh
- ☐ CRC 132 Reunification Success Stories -Darnall
- ☐ CRC 133 No One is Immune: A Psychologist's Encounter with the Tyranny of Conventional Wisdom -Dave
- ☐ CRC 134 Representing Single Custodial Fathers -Leving
- ☐ CRC 135 The Distressed Children of Sierra Leone -Kargbo, The Disturbing Reality of Parental Abductions, Divorce and Custody in Japan -Benda, and Children of Divorce in England -Coe
- ☐ CRC 136 The Future of CRC. Questions and Answers -Levy, Bauserman

Unable to Attend CRC's 13th National Conference?

Order the CD "Ernie Ashworth and Friends Sing Out for the Children's Rights Council", including Hadassah Luther sing "Hear the Cries of the Children" and songs by 11 other artists. $12.

Order Booklet of Materials submitted by many of the speakers, and some conference handouts. An overview of many topics affecting custody, access (visitation) and parental kidnapping of children. $10

Audio Cassettes Recorded at the Conference $10

Order Form

I would like to order

☐ the CD at $ 12 _____
(additional copies of the CD are $10 each) _____

☐ The Booklet of Conference Materials at $10 _____

☐ The following tapes at $10 each.

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S/H is $4 for first item, $1 for each additional item _____

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Bills in Congress

Fatherhood Bill Re-Introduced

S. 653 (Senate bill) and H.R. 1300 (House bill).

The Responsible Fatherhood Act, which was passed by the House last year, and stopped in the Senate, has been re-introduced in the House and Senate. It is essentially the same bill in both House and Senate.

The legislation provides for $77 million in fatherhood programs, with a heavier emphasis on marriage than the legislation last year.

Last year's bill provided for a 50/50 split in funds, half to promote marriage, and half to promote fragile families.

This year's Senate version requires more emphasis on marriage. Governors of the states must certify that funds are being used to promote or sustain marriage, or fatherhood. Whether fatherhood can be promoted outside of marriage depends on which Hill staffer you talk to.

The Senate bill's major sponsor is Sen. Evan Bayh (D-IN), and the House's main sponsor is Rep. Julia Carson (D-IN). Each bill has both Republican and Democratic co-sponsors.

Rep. Carson wants to fund success programs that promote fatherhood, said one of her aides.

At the request of CRC, Sen. Bayh added a provision to the bill that in considering funding, one of the factors should be programs that explain "the benefits of the involvement of both parents in a child's life."

The Senate bill was referred to the Senate Finance Committee, 202/224-4515 and the House version was referred to House Ways and Means Committee, (202) 225-3625.

Denial of Passports

H.R. 407, introduced by Rep. Robert Andrews (D-NJ), to establish a denial of passports to noncustodial parents in cases of nonpayment of child support. Authorizes the Secretary of State to refuse, revoke, restrict, or limit use of a passport if the applicant or passport holder is a noncustodial parent who is the object of an outstanding State arrest warrant for nonpayment of child support, where the amount in controversy is not less than $10,000. Referred to House Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, phone (202) 225-3345.

CRC has asked Rep. Andrews to provide a balancing amendment to this bill to deny passports to custodial parents who have been found to be in violation of any state or federal visitation order, including violations of the interstate visitation law sponsored by Rep. Andrews which became law in October, 1999. That law requires all states to recognize the visitation orders of other states. Write to Rep. Andrews asking for this balancing amendment.

Tax Interception

H.R. 869, introduced by Rep. Michael N. Castle (R-DE), titled the Child Support Fairness and Tax Interception Act of 2001. This bill amends title IV part D (Child Support and Establishment of Paternity) of the Social Security Act to provide for the use of the tax refund intercept program to collect past-due child support of behalf of children who are not minors. Referred to House Subcommittee on Human Resources, phone 202-225-1025. **Write to Rep. Castle to ask for the same kind of balancing amendment as recommended above for Rep. Andrews' bill.**

Anti-Joint Custody Resolution Knocked Out

Congress dropped the anti-joint custody resolution from the Violence Against Women Act. At least one House member, Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), told CRC that contacts from constituents was the reason he informed Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), the Resolution sponsors that he opposed passage of the anti-joint custody resolution. CRC had asked individuals and groups around the country to let their members of Congress know about the importance of children having access to both of their parents. The resolution was part of a crime bill, the Violence Against Women Act, and did not adequately represent the need of children to have access to both parents in most situations. We thank everyone who contacted their House members against this resolution, and against an earlier, even stronger anti-joint custody resolution that was part of VAWA.

Can't Compel Child-Parent Testimony

H.R. 733, introduced by Rep. Robert Andrews (D-NJ), to establish a parent-child privilege. Neither a parent nor a child shall be compelled to give testimony as a witness in a court proceeding against each other. Referred to House Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property, phone (202) 225-5741.

Correction and Discussion of Safe Haven Sites

In the last issue of this newsletter (Fall, 2000/Winter, 2001), we erred in stating the Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA) bill number that Congress passed. It is H.R. 3244, which is Public Law 106-386. We also stated that funds had not yet been appropriated under the law. They had. However, the funds are less than contemplated. The law itself authorized $15 million, but the Congressional appropriators only allotted $2 million for the "Youth Safe Havens".

VAWA states that Safe Havens would be operated in conjunction with domestic violence programs in the various state(s). CRC pointed out that Congress already appropriates $10 million a year for all states to share for programs that help children connect to their noncustodial parents, including transfer sites for children and supervised access (visitation) programs. These programs, some of which are run by the Children's Rights Council, are very aware of the need to

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Bills in Congress

Continued from page 23

protect individuals who use the sites.

CRC stated that this was a duplicative program, which focuses only on domestic violence, and not on the broad range of issues that cause judges to refer parents to supervised sites, including substance abuse, longtime absence from the family, and severe communications problems between parents.

The Justice Department is in the process of preparing regulations under which non-profit groups could apply for some of the funding. We will keep you posted.

The phone number to reach all members of Congress is (202) 224-3121.

We thank Bladen Lithographics in Gaithersburg, MD for providing printing services to CRC.

Donors Are Appreciated

CRC thanks everyone who contributes to CRC in the charity drive that takes place in all federal government offices every Fall. CRC is part of Independent Charities of America. We also thank those who contribute to CRC in the Washington, D.C., and San Francisco (Bay Area) United Way campaigns.

We also thank those who contribute to CRC through their United Way in some other part of the country, where we are not listed, but where employers may sometimes allow employees to designate CRC.

CRC depends on volunteer help and contributions for its existence.

If you wish to make your tax-deductible contribution directly to CRC, send it to CRC, 300 I Street, Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002.

Chapter News

Continued from page 11

New Leadership in New York City

Rafee Kamaal and Elizabeth Schnee have been elected co-presidents of CRC of New York City. We thank Thomas Thornton, whose term expired in December 2000, and welcome Rafee and Elizabeth, who were elected by the chapter for a two year term starting in January, 2001. Raffi has been a CRC member for 4 years, and is a multi-media producer. Rafee has one son, Rami, 8 years old. Elizabeth owns her own business – a glass etching firm called Townsend Glass in Long Island City. She is a non-custodial mother who raised 4 kids. She has been class parent for the last 12 years, in all of her children's classes. They are Tona, 20; Roddy, 16; Sarah, 15; and Jacob, 12. And yet she has been repeatedly blocked from visitation with the children.

Center for Divorce Education for Sale

The Center for Divorce Education is a thriving mail order business that we are selling due to retirement. We want this good work to continue. We produce the award-winning Children In The Middle video program and booklets for divorcing parents. We have been recognized as having the best divorce education programs in the country, and sales steadily have increased.

Research has shown these programs increase parental cooperation, reduce conflict and relitigation and increase children's access to the nonresidential parent. Sales can be substantially increased with good marketing approaches. For a part time (20 hours per week or less) person, annual income is more than $60,000.

We will help the buyer get going with our experience and expertise.

More info at: http://www.BizBuySell.com and our website at www.divorce-educationc.om, or call 740-593-1065, or email Don Gordon at gordon@ohio.edu or Jack Arbuthnot at arbuthno@ohio.edu

Letter to the Editor

Don't Create Bigger Incentives for Divorce

Editor:

It is no exaggeration to say that politicians are destroying the foundations of American society. Many people are concerned about our high divorce rate and the large number of children affected by these broken homes. However, only the libertarians seem to have noticed that the government is subsidizing single parent homes and thus creating more of them.

Now the Republicans are blindly moving to pump up these subsidies. President Bush proposed to double the child-tax credit by 2006, and the congressional Republicans want to do it even faster. They seem unaware that this credit is available only to custodial parents, but not to the non-custodial parents who are paying child support. This is just one of at least six divorce incentives in the IRS rules, along with numerous other government support programs just for custodial parents.

The groups that are working to reduce our divorce rate are concentrating mostly on promoting marriage counseling. Those measures won't go far unless we start repealing the divorce subsidies, too.

Neil Steyskal
Arlington, VA

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Upcoming Events

Fatherhood Conference

The International Fatherhood Conference 2001, sponsored by NPCL (The National Center for Strategic Non-Profit Planning and Community Leadership), will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, May 28-30, 2001, at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, 1-800-325-3535.

For conference information, contact Charlene Meeks or Jacqueline Ratley at NPCL, phone 202-822-6725.

Smart Marriages, Happy Families

Smart Marriages, Happy Families, The Fifth Annual Conference of the Coalition for Marriage, Family and Couples Education, in Orlando, Florida at the Rosen Center Hotel, 1-800-204-7234, June 21-24. For registration information, call 215/822-6319 or email maccinc@enter.net. David L. Levy of CRC will be on a panel at the conference on Saturday, June 23, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. to discuss Divorce Law Reform: Building a Movement.

National Summit on Fatherhood

The National Fatherhood Initiative's 4th national summit, June 7-8, 2001 at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, phone 202/737-1234. For registraton information, contact NFI at 301/-948-0599, or at www.fatherhood.org. Dick Mikesell, Ph.D., will speak on Working with Divorced Parents.

Hertz Car Rental Benefits

Hertz and CRC are getting together! Get a free upgrade or 5 percent off your next Hertz Card Rental. Call your travel agent or call Hertz in the U.S. at 1-800-654-2200. Mention CDP Card# 1218734 (the CRC Code number) to receive your free benefit.

Children Denied Access in New York

Representatives of the Children's Rights Council, Fathers Rights Association, and other pro-family individuals and organizations held a press conference March 14 in Albany, NY. At the press conference, participants read off the number of children denied access to one of their parents in New York, county by county.

This is based on a CRC report that there are more than 5,500,000 children who are denied access to their non-custodial parents; CRC broke the list down by population reports in each state.

Assemblyman David Sidikman (D), Sen. Owen Johnson (R), and Assemblyman Jay Dinga (R), all of whom are co-sponsors of either A3673, or S2828 – shared parenting legislation – spoke at the press conference, as did other pro-family legislators.

Patronize Our Advertisers

Advertise in CRC's Newsletter: 5,000 circulated with a Nationwide readership of 25,000!

Business Card	$75	Half page (7.15" x 4.825")	$275
Quarter page (3.575 x 4.825")	$150	Full page (7.15" x 9.65")	$500

For information contact Julie at the CRC office.

The Year 2000 was CRC's 15th Anniversary—But We are Still Celebrating Until British Embassy Reception and Conference!

We appreciate everyone who has worked for children and CRC. We thank all those who have enabled CRC to improve the lives of children and families. So many have given so much, of their time, efforts, and financial contributions.

For 2001, CRC has four life member levels of support. They are:

- A PLATINUM LIFE MEMBER is one who donates $5,000 or more
- A GOLD LIFE MEMBER is one who donates $2,500 to $4,999.
- A SILVER LIFE MEMBER is one who donates $1,000 to $2,499.
- A LIFE MEMBER is one who donates CRC $500 to $999.

Anyone who has contributed to CRC in the past may increase the donation to reach any of the life member levels. If you are unsure about your previous donation level, contact CRC, and we would be glad to let you know. Thank you.

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National Affiliate Organizations and Chapters

International

CRC of Great Britain
Tony and Christine Coe, coordinators
Children's Rights Council of the United Kingdom
38-40 Gloucester Road
London, SW7 4QU London, England
phone: 011-44-20 7589 9003
fax: 011-44-20 7584 4230
email: tonyr@equalparenting.org

CRC of Japan
Walter Benda
P.O. Box 583
Max Meadows, VA 24360
540/637-3799
email: cmarr@earthlink.net
website: www.geocities.com/crcjapan
and
David Brian Thomas
4-18-15-903
Kamiki TazawaSetagaya-Ku
Tokyo, Japan 156
phone: 011-81-3-5317-0357

CRC of Sierra Leone
Yotto Kargbo
3305 Covered Bridge Lane
Woodbridge, VA 22192
phone and fax: 703/897-7845 and
Esther Kargbo
7 Sanai Abacha Street
Freetown, Sierra Leone
phone: 011-23-2-2222-8682

National Affiliate Organizations

Mothers Without Custody (MWOC)
Jennifer Isham, coordinator
website only: http: www/motherswithoutcustody.org

Stepfamily Association of America (SAA)
Margorie Engel, president
Larry Kallemyn, Executive Director
650 J Street, Suite 205
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
402/477-7837
1-800/735-0329
Joint membership in SAA and CRC: $35.00 for the first year

Parenting Coalition International, Inc.
Belinda Rollins, president
1025 Connecticut Avenue N.E., Suite 615
Washington, D.C. 20036
phone: 202/530-0849
email:
website: parentingcoalition.org

Co-Mamas
Louise Osborn and Lynne Ringwood
P.O. Box 231304
Encinitas, CA 92023
Phone: 760/942-4572
email: feelgood@comamas.com

State Chapters

Alaska
Gary Maxwell, coordinator
CRC of Alaska
P.O. Box 92083
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fax: 907/276-3980
email: gmaxwell@alaska.net

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fax: 480/970-5925

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fax: 203/281-1425
email: libros3@aol.com
website: www.paradisetek.com/ctcrc.htm

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phone: 678/643-5924
fax: 678/643-5923
email: ppilla@us.ibm.com

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905 Wayne Avenue
Deerfield, IL 60015
phone: 847/374-0461
fax: 312/322-3553
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Indianapolis, IN 46206-2348
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email: Pace_Indiana@yahoo.com
David Dinn, coordinator emeritus

Iowa - See Nebraska/Iowa

Kentucky
Kevin O'Brien, coordinator
Ann Swango
CRC of Kentucky
P O Box 74126
Dayton, KY 41074-0126
phone: 513/624-7223
email: CRC-Kentucky@egroups.com

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Harvey Walden, coordinator
CRC of Maryland
417 Pershing Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20910-4254
301/588-0262
website: http://www.members.tripod.com/~mdcrc/

Rob and Sandra Snow, chairs
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The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is an international, non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) children's rights organization based in Washington, D.C. that is committed to the loving, nurturing, protection and education of children through both parents and extended family.

CRC is dedicated to helping children by promoting family formation, shared parenting, mediation, and parent education, and by mitigating the effects of divorce and relationship breakups of children and parents.

CRC's vision is a society where both parents play a significant parenting role in their children's lives. Children need grandparents, step-parents, and others who are part of the family fabric, working as a team.

CRC envisions a society where laws, attitudes, and public opinon affirm that for children, **"The Best Parent is Both Parents."**

Strengthening Families through Education and Advocacy

Formed in 1985 by concerned parents who had more than 40 years of collective experience in custody reform and early childhood education, CRC has chapters in 32 states and 4 national affiliate organizations: Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC), The Stepfamily Association of America (SAA), CoMamas, and Parenting Coalition International, Inc.

Prominent professionals in the fields of religion, law, social work, psychology, child care, education, business, and government comprise our Family Advisory Board.

Assisting Children of Separated, Divorced, and Never-Married Parents

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From the Editor...

For those of you who have seen previous issues of "Speak Out for Children," this issue is definitely a new look. How do you like it? CRC has shifted to a "Newsmagazine" format in order to modernize our image, and enable us to reach more parents and professionals with vital information. We want to provide greater help to the 35 million children whose parents are separated, divorced, and never-married.

Our aim is to improve those children's lives, and to make certain they grow up with two fit parents and extended family members whenever possible. Children raised with two parents are more likely to avoid crime, drugs, and to do better academically.

CRC has accomplished a great deal since we were formed in 1985. Some of our accomplishments:

- CRC has testified more than 20 times before Congressional Committees in favor of access (visitation) policies and programs, shared parenting, welfare reform that would encourage 2-parent families, mediation, and implementation of the Hague Convention Against International Parental Kidnapping.
  Catherine Meyer, the wife of the British Ambassador to the U.S., and honorary president of CRC, cannot get to see her two children Constantin and Alexander, who are being held in Germany by her first husband, the children's father.
- Filed more than 20 amicus curiae (friend of the court briers) in support of a child's right to two parents. One of those briefs reached the U.S. Supreme Court, where the court upheld the right of an unwed biological father to a hearing to determine if he should have access (visitation) rights to his children.
- Educated Congress on the need to provide access (visitation) demonstration grants in 6 states as part of the 1988 Family Support Act.
- Publicized 5th Annual CRC report on "The Best States to Raise Children."
- Publicized 2nd annual report in 2001 on "The Top 7 States Helping America's 35 Million Children of Divorced, Separated and Never-Married Parents". Seven members of Congress attended CRC's Press Conference in the Gold Room of the Rayburn Office Building in July, 2001 where we announced the seven winning states.
- Continued Developing "Safe Haven" Child Transfer Centers for families in 6 states (IL, MD, OH, VA, NC, CT) and Washington, D.C.

We have all suffered shocks after the September 11 terrorist acts, and the horrible Anthrax attacks. After these attacks, there seems to be more recognition of the importance of family, and staying in touch with loved ones. We have even heard of the divorce rate going down in one jurisdiction in Texas, as parents reassess what they want out of life. We must help the most defenseless of our citizens, our children, through these difficult times. The CRC motto is "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

Welcome, Old Readers, and New Readers alike. May our children grow up to be the happy, healthy adults they were meant to be.

David L. Levy

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Family Transfer-Mation: CRC Establishes 17 "Safe Havens" for Children

The Children's Rights Council and its chapters have established 17 Safe Haven Sites for children in six states — Maryland, Virginia, Connecticut, Illinois, Ohio and North Carolina — and Washington, D.C.

CRC was surprised to find that about 40% of the parents who use the sites are never-married, and about 35% are mothers who do not have primary care of their children.

Al Ellis

Mark Roseman

Thirteen of those sites are locations where parents exchange their children between them for a weekend between Friday and Sunday evening, and four provide supervised access on Saturday mornings.

Almost all of the parents who use the sites are referred by judges, lawyers, or mental health professionals.

"Over the past four years, CRC has created a niche for providing these community based services," said Al Ellis, CRC Director of Child Access Services.

CRC is expanding, and expects to have more than 20 such sites available for families by early 2002.

Several of the sites are funded by the courts, child support offices, state grants, and private foundations. "Increasingly, child support offices encourage emotional as well as financial child support from both parents, part of the change in child support philosophy over the past several years," said CRC President David L. Levy.

"However, we establish some CRC sites without any funding sources, because we want to provide a community service," said Ellis. "We also find that once sites are in place, funding follows."

When parents appear before a judge, there is often a disagreement between the parents as to whether access (visitation) has taken place. The judge, not knowing which parent to believe, sometimes assigns the weekend transfer to take place at a police station, but if a friendlier location exists, such as one operated by CRC, the judges will refer the family to those sites.

Church Day Care Center Sites

Most CRC's sites are at churches, but others are in community centers, such as the Washington, D.C. location at a YMCA.

"CRC was reaching out to the faith-based community four years before the faith-based community became a national issue," said CRC Board Chairman John L. Bauserman, Jr., J.D. Many of the volunteer monitors at the sites are members of the churches.

At CRC's longest-running site in Prince George's County, just outside northeast Washington, D.C., at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, more than 5,000 transfers have taken place in five years.

"The transfers eliminate the 'he/said' 'she/said" arguments that poison the courts," said Family Division Master Sherman West of Prince George's County.

CRC volunteers monitor the transfers to make certain they proceed without incident. One parent delivers the child to the site on Friday evenings, usually between 7 and 8 p.m. and waits until the other parent arrives about 15 minutes later. Two days later, on Sunday, usually between 6 and 7 p.m., the parent with the child over the weekend returns the child to the center for the other parent to pick up.

Some parents are seeing their children for the first time because of these sites. "I know of many parents who have been grateful because they are seeing their child for the first time in six months, a year, or longer," said Margaret Wuwert, CRC Assistant Child Access Director—Midwest Region. "For some parents, this is the first time they have ever seen their child, because the other parent is bringing the child to the site on Friday evening for the exchange."

Many Moms Use Sites

CRC was surprised to find that about 40% of the parents who use the sites are never-married, and about 35% are mothers who do not

Continued on page 21

PARALLEL PARENTING STRATEGIES: KEYS FOR SUCCCESS IN HIGH CONFLICT DIVORCES

PRESENTATION AT CRC's 13TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE, MAY 2001
RICHARD H. MIKESELL, PH.D., WASHINGTON DC

Preface by John L. Bauserman, J.D., CRC Board Chairman —

Parallel parenting offers judges, attorneys and parents involved in high conflict cases a means of conceptualizing custody and divorce arrangements, which still allows a child to enjoy the benefits of frequent and continuing contact with both parents.

Under a parallel parenting approach, both parents can enjoy the benefits of shared parenting, but have the decision-making authority expressly allocated between them. Parallel parenting is a rebuttal to those critics who say shared parenting or joint custody can't work in high conflict situations. As reported in 1995 by Sec. 16 (Division of School Psychology) of the American Psychological Association, joint custody is associated with reduced relitigation costs, as well as superior child adjustment outcomes.

As CRC members and professionals familiar with the social science literature on high conflict cases will recall, Frank Williams, M.D. of the Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles, reported in 1988 that the best approach for high-conflict families was to avoid a "parentectomy" — the removal of a parent from a child's life. Of equal importance, Williams recommended to the American Bar Association Family Law Committee that the best approach for high conflict families was joint custody with highly structured visitation and decision-making authority allocated evenly between parents. When the courts enter a highly-structured order, this reduces the possibility of continuing conflict.

While parallel parenting has its most obvious application in high conflict divorces, it is a useful, almost essential approach to separation and divorce at all levels of conflict.

Richard Mikesell

It is this author's contention that the beginning of a separation and divorce process is evidence that the marital co-parenting is not effective, at least in some ways. It may be folly to presume that a set of parents who are not an effective parenting team before a separation and divorce process begins, can now in the midst of the turmoil of separation and divorce, with probable conflict over parenting plans, finances, legal issues etc., function as effective co-parents.

Under a parallel parenting approach, both parents can enjoy the benefits of shared parenting, but have the decision-making authority expressly allocated between them.

As explained by McBride, J. (2000), in cooperative parenting "parents work together in the best interests of the child", while in parallel parenting "parents work separately for the best interests of the child". Additionally, as explained by Allen, R.M., Kristensen, N., Lewis, T.A., Neil, N.J., Onstad, P., Tralle, M.L., and Washington, V.A. (1997), in parallel parenting, one or both parents "clearly accept responsibility as a parent and assume it is their personal duty to make decisions about their children". For effective parallel parenting to occur the focus needs to be on the actions of each individual parent, particularly when the children are with that parent, but even when they are with the other parent. A critical step in parallel parenting is "not telling the other parent how to parent" and disengaging (not arguing back) when the other parent tells you how to parent. (Stahl, 2000)

For effective parallel parenting to occur the focus needs to be on the actions of each individual parent

There are both positive and negative effects on parallel parenting which are outlined in the table on page 24.

In the literature and lore of separation and divorce, parallel parenting is not really new. Typically, it is the default model when co-parenting does not work. However, it may well be more effective to start with the parallel parenting model at the onset of a separation and divorce process, when conflict over financial and legal issues predominates and then, if appropriate, work towards a co-parenting model.

Mikesell, Lusterman & McDaniel (1995) have elaborated on how a systems therapy approach to conflict resolution takes into account not only the thoughts, feelings and behavior of the participants in the nuclear family system (both parents and children), but also the larger system and context. During separation and divorce the interactions with and influences of the larger system and context are particularly critical to successful interventions.

When working with families undergoing separation and divorce, it

Continued on page 24

Letter to the Editor

Editor:

I had been trying to get a copy of my daughter's school records for three years. The school kept saying they would not send me her report cards or other information about how she was doing in school. Finally, I phoned CRC. A CRC representative called an official in the U.S. Department of Education, and together, they phoned the principal at my daughter's school in a 3-way phone conversation.

They explained that federal law (FERPA - the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act) requires public schools to make a child's records available to the non-custodial parent. The school sent me my daughter's report card and other information the very next day! I am making it easier for the school by sending them a batch of self-addressed stamped envelopes so they can regularly send me information in the future. Thanks, CRC!

Sam Love
North Dakota

Ohio Goes Non-Stop

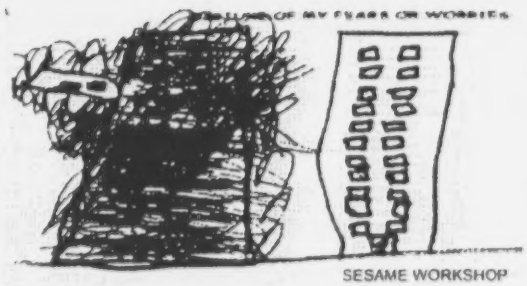
Congresswoman Kaptur

The CRC Northwest Ohio Chapter's efforts were instrumental in securing the Governor of Ohio's declaration of the last week of September as "Parents' Week" throughout Ohio. It's theme, "You Gotta Love Parents" was printed on purple ribbons. "Parents' Week" included Equal Parents' Week activities in the Toledo area, where 40,000 purple ribbons were distributed. Employees of major grocery chains wore purple ribbons, and ribbons were distributed at local churches. A "Kick Off Rally" was held at the Main Toledo Library, with Sidney Ribeau, the President of Bowling Green State University as guest speaker.

A panel discussion at the Toledo Main Library included mayors, state senators, state representatives, and judges, addressing the role of government in assisting family and parents. Other panels were also held on family issues.

An Equal Parents Week dinner was attended by Judges David Lewandowski and Joseph Flores, a staff member for Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), sheriffs, representatives of three churches where CRC Ohio Coordinator Margaret Wuwert has opened transfer sites, Lucas County Commissioner Sandy Isenberg, Jerry Anderson, the anchor of CBS-TV affiliate WTOL, and David L. Levy (see pg. 13).

Practical Advice on Family Matters... "Child Travel"



Terror and death were the overwhelming themes in a poll of children ages 6 to 11 who were asked to picture likes, dislikes, hopes and fears.

Kids Traveling in Light of the September 11 Tragedy

In light of the September 11 tragedy, mothers and fathers are cutting back on traveling. But the real problem regarding traveling may be for children, especially children whose parents are separated, divorced, or never married. If one parent lives, say, in California, and the other parent lives in New York, will the New York parent with the child want to send the child to California? We recommend that the visits continue, but with added care and precautions.

The alternative is to go visit your child. This will create more of an artificial atmosphere, if you have to rent a motel, and cost more, as well. But it is an attractive alternative to a young child travelling alone. Parents may wish to split the costs.

We also ask parents who are considering moving the child some distance away from the other parent to reconsider the moveaway. Children need the close proximity of both mom and dad, especially as to cut down on the risks of travel. We ask you to remain in the area where the child lives, whether you are the mom, the dad, and whether you have custody or not. Children are born with love and need both parents, and extended family.

Also, the airlines generally say that a child 5 years or older can travel alone. We recommend that the airlines consider stating that age 7 is the minimum age when a child may travel alone.

God Bless America

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SIGNIFICANT COURT CASES

Supreme Court Won't Intervene in International Child Custody Fight

Dallas News, 10/9/2001

The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to intervene in a child custody case between a New York mother and a father in Hong Kong that tested the boundaries of an international treaty.

The father wanted the court to consider for the first time a case concerning how America handles the Hague Convention against child abduction.

The United States is among more than 60 countries that follow the treaty, which is designed to prevent parents from taking children to other countries to get around child custody orders.

In this case, Stephen Croll accused his ex-wife, Mei Yee Croll, of secretly moving their daughter from Hong Kong to America.

After the couple filed for divorce in 1998, a Hong Kong judge said that Christina Croll could not be removed from that country until she turned 18 or unless there was permission from the court or consent from the other parent.

A federal judge in New York ordered the mother to return Christina to Hong Kong, where she was born in 1990 and had lived her entire life.

A divided panel of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed and said the treaty can only be used when a child has been moved to another country in violation of a parent's custodial rights. The court said the father had "rights of access" but not "rights of custody."

"Whether or not the Hague Convention will provide a remedy for a left-behind parent in the many cases involving court orders restraining removal of children...is a fundamental and important aspect of the convention," the father's attorney told the court in urging it to consider the case.

Mei Yee Croll has claimed that the man she was married to for 16 years was physically abusive to her. She said that after taking their daughter to New York in 1999, she never returned because she feared she would be arrested.

"Christina, unquestionably, was brought to this country by her custodial parent," her lawyer said.

The attorney said Stephen Croll never sought sole or joint custody but to qualify under the treaty he "wants to transform his rights of access into a right of custody—again without burdening himself with duties that correspond with such rights."

The mother, father and daughter are American citizens but have lived in Hong Kong. The treaty said that children should be returned to the country of "habitual residence."

(CRC needs volunteers to work with the State Department, and Hague Convention officials, to explain why the Convention should be applied in an even-handed way, for the benefit of children).

Parent's Sex May be Factor in Citizenship, Supreme Court Rules

The government may make it more difficult for children born out of wedlock overseas to U.S. citizen fathers to claim citizenship than for the children of American mothers, the Supreme Court rules June 11, 2001.

The rejected by 5-4 a claim that the different treatment violates the constitutional guarantee of equal protection.

The court majority held that, in adopting different rules depending on whether the mother or father was a U.S. citizen, Congress was attempting to ensure that such children have a clear biological and social attachment to their U.S. citizen parent, and therefore was engaging in a constitutional acceptable form of gender discrimination.

Women's groups filed a friend of the court brief supporting equal treatment of both mothers and fathers. "We tried to show that a lot of what this is based on is historical discrimination," said Nancy Duff Campbell of the National Women's Law Center.

The law in question says children born out of wedlock abroad to mothers who are U.S. citizens may become citizens almost automatically. In the case of children of U.S. citizen father's however, one of several legal steps must be taken first to establish paternity — before the child reaches the age of 18.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, in the court opinion, wrote, "There is noting irrational or improper in the recognition that at the moment of birth — a critical event in the statutory scheme and in the whole tradition of citizenship law - the mother's knowledge of the child and the fact of parenthood have been established in a way not guaranteed in the case of the unwed father. This is not a stereotype."

Dissenters argued that gender neutral alternatives to the law could easily be devised and emphasized that modern DNA testing can establish paternity reliability, even if a father is not present at the child's birth.

Dissenters were Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, David H. Souter, Stephen G. Bryer and Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

Child Support Reduction at Age of Majority

Child support arrearages were properly assessed against a father who reduced his support payments when two of his three children reached majority, even though his support Agreement envisioned such reductions, the Virginia Court of Appeals ruled February 27. The father should have sought court modification of

Continued on page 25

Going Pro Se in Divorce Court

Theresa Meeham Rudy,
from The Legal Reformer, *published by HALT,*
Washington, D.C., Spring 2001 issue.

Not too long ago if you wanted to get a divorce — even an uncontested divorce — you needed to hire a lawyer or face huge obstacles in court trying to do it yourself (pro se). Not so anymore.

According to the Florida State Court Administrator's office, in nearly 65 percent of Florida divorces in 2000, one or both spouses represented themselves in court. In Arizona, the number of self-represented individuals in divorce cases rose from 25 percent in 1989 to 50 percent in 1985 to 88 percent in 1990. In 1998, California's courts handled nearly 162,000 family law cases. More than half (52 percent) of the cases had at least one unrepresented client.

Courts all over the country are responding to this huge army of pro se litigants by establishing self-help centers right within their court buildings. In Broward County, Florida, for example, a self-help unit was created six years ago and last year helped 2,650 pro se litigants. The unit is staffed with people specially trained to give workshops and provide general legal information. Similar offices exist in other states, including California and Arizona. Some are mini libraries complete with do-it-yourself forms, books, software and educational videos.

For those who do not live in a county or state that promotes the self-help ethic, there's always the Internet. A quick search under "Do It Yourself Divorce" calls up scores of websites offering everything from legal hotline contact numbers, to support groups for people representing themselves in court. Many provide state-specific downloadable forms and general advice on how to fill them out.

Information for filing your own divorce case—especially if it's uncontested—is plentiful, no matter where you live, thanks to books and software kits written for a national audience.

If you don't want to do it yourself or get involved in acrimonious litigation, you can still turn to alternative dispute resolution. A new proceeding called collaborative law helps spouses divorce without the expense or emotional costs involved in litigation. Each side gets to hire an attorney to help negotiate the dissolution but neither side can initiate litigation or even threaten to do so. If they do, both attorneys are disqualified from any further involvement in the case. For more information on collaborative law and where to find a collaborative law attorney, check HALT's website, www.halt.org. HALT stands for Help Abolish Legal Tyranny.

CRC Needs

- Free or reduced rent office space. Get a tax write-off as you help kids and CRC. 2,000 square feet or more anywhere in the Washington, D.C. area (Maryland, D.C. or Virginia)
- Volunteers to help with filing, phone calls, and writing letters.
- Our chapters need computers and office space
- Lawyers to write CRC Amicus Briefs on appeal.

Helpful Info

Contact Other CRC Members by E-mail

Send and receive e-mail from other CRC members around the country. If you are a CRC member, e-mail the following message to Harry Prillaman, CRC Coordinator for Georgia, who is supervising the membership list. His email address is ppilla@us.ibm.com

Dear Harry, I am a national CRC member who would like to join the crc-general@yahoogroups.com distribution list.

Call the CRC national office at 202-547-6227 or fax 202-546-4272 or email CRC at crcdc@erols.com to make sure your national membership is current.

CRC Membership Highlight

Get the CRC VISA Credit Card, and obtain a low 3.9 percent introductory rate. The credit card displays the CRC logo, and CRC receives a small contribution every time you use the card. CRC receives more if you break up a large purchase into several small purchases. For an application, contact CRC, or call MBNA at 1-800-523-7666. If you have trouble obtaining approval, contact CRC; we can't guarantee approval, but we will gladly try.

Change of Address

Please notify CRC three weeks in advance of any address change. Send old and new addresses to CRC, 300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, DC 20002 or email us at crcdc@erols.com

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PERSONALITIES

Wallerstein, Haskins New CRC Advisors

Judith Wallerstein

Judith Wallerstein, Ph.D., widely considered the world's foremost authority on the effects of divorce on children, and Ron Haskins, Ph.D., widely noted authority on family issues and welfare reform, have agreed to become Advisors to the Children's Rights Council.

They join "Dear Abby," several members of Congress, and other experts on CRC's Family Advisory Board.

Wallerstein, co-author of "The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce: a 25 Year Landmark Study," is founder of the Judith Wallerstein Center for the Family in Transition, in Corte Madera, CA.

Wallerstein is a senior lecturer emerita at the School of Social Welfare at the University of California, and was co-author with Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D. of Surviving the Breakup, one of the seminal books on divorce published in 1980. Dr. Kelly is also a CRC Advisor.

Ronald Haskins

Haskins is former Republican staff director for the House Human Resources Subcommittee, the committee that deals with welfare reform, access (visitation) and financial child support issues. He is now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., and a senior consultant to the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore.

"CRC is delighted to have Both Ron Haskins and Judith Wallerstein as CRC's newest advisors," said CRC President David L. Levy.

CRC Spokesperson: The Wise Woman

Audrey Wise, Ph.D. child and family counselor and mediator, is a national spokesperson for CRC. She does frequent media interviews on TV, radio, and in the print media. She is based in New York. In a typical month, September, 2001, she appeared in many media outlets, including MSNBC, Fox News, WCBS-TV, WOR Radio, WABC Radio, the New York Daily News, and Court TV. She is interviewed on a variety of issues, often pegged to breaking news. In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, she has been asked to comment on children who experience trauma, issues of access (visitation), kidnapping and custody issues, and phobias in children. The most pressing current issue is how to ensure that children have face contact with both parents even if they are living on opposite sides of the country.

Horn, Heller New Child Support Bosses

Wade Horn

Wade Horn, Ph.D. has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Family Support. Horn, well known in Washington as a former HHS official for President Bush's father, gave up the office of president of the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) in order to accept the government position. (The new president of NFI is Roland C. Warren in Gaithersburg, MD).

Horn is in charge of the Child Support Enforcement Office.

Sherri Heller

Under Horn, the new Commissioner in charge of the nationwide child support system is Sherri Z. Heller, Ed.D. She was named to that post in September, 2001 by the Bush Administration. Mrs. Heller is former Deputy Secretary for Income Maintenance under Governor Tom Ridge in Pennsylvania's Department for Public Welfare. Heller managed the Pennsylvania child support program statewide through cooperative agreements with 67 county domestic relations offices.

In the Clinton Administration, the federal child support office, under Commissioner David Gray Ross, took the lead in promoting family friendly approaches that encouraged 2 parent participation in children's lives post-divorce. CRC hopes that Ms. Heller will continue the policy of seeing the Commissioner's job as not just collecting support, but also as an avenue to encourage parenting by both mothers and dads who are separated, divorced, or never married. Such a policy, according to government data, not only improves parenting for children, but leads to higher financial child support compliance, as well.

LEGISLATION, BILLS, AND PROCLAMATIONS

Welfare Reform

The Welfare Reform Law, also known as TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) was passed by Congress in 1996, and is due to expire by the end of 2002. So the law must be "re-authorized" next year, as Congress is expected to do, in order to maintain the reforms started in 1996. The 1996 initiative, led by former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and the Republicans in Congress under their "Contract with America," was endorsed by then President Clinton on the legislation's third attempt at passage. Welfare Reform banned welfare as an entitlement, and made it a time-limited program. Congress put a 5 year cap on welfare payments to any one recipient.

As a result, the welfare rolls across the nation have dropped by 25 percent to 50 percent over the years. The federal government and the states have provided safety nets for poor families in the form of day care vouchers, medical assistance, housing, and other benefits.

The Welfare Reform Act contains the $10 million a year for access (visitation) programs. Under that provision, each state receives a minimum of $100,000, with the average state grant (figured by population) about $185,000 per year. The largest states, like California, Florida and Illinois, receive $500,000 or more each year.

The $10 million is provided in the 1996 Welfare Reform Act "to establish and administer programs to support and facilitate non-custodial parents' access to and visitation of their children by means of activities including mediation (both voluntary and mandatory), counseling, education, development of parenting plans, visitation enforcement (including monitoring, supervision and neutral drop-off and pick-up) and development of guidelines for visitation and alternative custody arrangements."

The $10 million has grown to $50 million because five years worth of block-grants have been distributed to the states. Block grants mean that the states can organize and manage the money, so long as they provide one or more of the services provided by Congress. The courts, child support agencies, and other agencies of state government administer the funds. Some states have contracted with non-profit organizations to administer some of the programs.

The $10 million a year was an outgrowth of the first ever Congressional funding for access programs - $3 million in demonstration projects — in the 1988 Family Support Act, for which CRC is credited as being the catalyst. The 1988 demonstration projects proved so successful that the funding was expanded to $10 million a year for all the states to share in as part of the 1996 Welfare Reform Act.

We need your help to get the following changes into the Welfare Reform Reauthorization Act.

What CRC seeks in the re-authorization bill is for the access grants to be expanded from $10 million a year to $40 million a year. We also seek language in the bill to say that "states must provide 25 percent of the their access funds to non-profit organizations whose mission is to facilitate access between children and their non-custodial parents."

Write to your House Member and Senators, asking for this amendment. Call the local office of your Senators and House members to get their fax or email addresses, so long as the problems with mail security continue.

New Bush Administration Fatherhood Bill

The Bush Administration has introduced its own version of the Fatherhood Bill, H.R. 2893, that appears to mean that the previously submitted fatherhood bills are now out of favor. The Bush version was introduced by Rep. Wally Herger (R-CA), the chairman of the powerful House Human Resources Subcommittee, the body that will consider what bill to recommend to the full House.

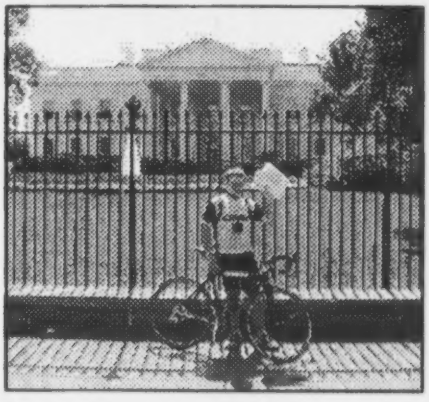
The legislation was to have been considered in the Fall of 2001, but the delays in domestic legislation because of September 11 means the bill will not have hearings or a vote until Spring, 2002.

The proposed Fatherhood Bill, H.R. 2893, provides $64 million for each of five years, starting in 2002

The bill provides $64 million for each of five years, starting in 2002 "for a broad array of demonstrations addressed at four broad goals: (1) to promote responsible, caring, and effective parenting (2) to encourage and help fathers to support their families and avoid welfare by helping them to take advantage of employment related programs and supporting regular payment of child support, (3) to improve fathers' ability to manage family business affairs, and (4) to encourage and support healthy marriages and married fatherhood."

Of particular interest to groups that run CRC-type programs, such as transfer of children sites, mediation and hotlines for referrals, a provision in H.R. 2893 says the bill is "to promote responsible, caring and

Continued on page 26



"I *still* have these petitions to deliver to President Bush."

14 year old Clayton Giles Bikes 3,600 for Kids Rights

Fourteen-year-old Clayton Giles rode his bicycle 3,600 miles from his hometown of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, to Washington, D.C., via dozens of towns and cities along the way.

In Washington, he sought to present President Bush with a petition in favor of shared parenting, signed by thousands of people whom he met along his bicycle route. The horror of September 11th arrived soon after Clayton reached Washington, making a meeting with President Bush impossible then, but he still hopes to present his collected petitions to the President in the future.

A police escort, with sirens flashing, escorted Clayton the last 10 miles of his trip from the Maryland/DC line to the "Zero Milestone" where a small group, including CRC President David L. Levy welcomed him. The 'Zero Milestone'–on the Ellipse between the White House and The Mall–is the point from which all US highway distance measurements start.

Along his route, which included Boston and the United Nations, he generated interest, publicity, and support. Clayton said his bike ride, called "Journey for Kids," was dedicated to every child of separation or divorce. "We want those who have the power to make decisions for us to consider the child's input and adopt the principle that, except in extraordinary cases, parenting should always be shared by both our parents," said Clayton. "Access to both our parents is the human right of every child."

On September 8, about 40 people attended a "Meet Clayton Fundraiser" party at the home of Clayton's D.C. coordinator. "At the party, we saw the bike more closely. Clayton's dad said it cost about $2,500. They had to spend that much to obtain a bike that would not break down every couple hundred of miles. He had five spills while biking and wore through two tires," said Harvey Walden, Maryland CRC coordinator.

Clayton's ride was backed up by a large, rented Winnebago. This is where Clayton slept, and where his support team — his dad and others, prepared meals, provided food and water, and handled logistics for Clayton.

"It became clear, from seeing the bike, the Winnebago, the several computers needed, and hearing about the logistics, that the trip had cost many thousands of dollars," said Levy. "This is one amazing young man," said Walden.

Clayton's arrival in Washington was covered by CBS-TV and ABC's local affiliate, with a combined audience of about 100,000 people.

For those who wish to find out more about the trip, possible future plans, or help with remaining unpaid bills, please go to Clayton's website, www.legalkids.com

A Crusader Dies

Emily Visher

Emily Visher, Ph.D., who in 1977 co-founded the Stepfamily Association of America with her husband, John Visher, M.D., died October 5, at age 83. Back in the 1970's, the Vishers were trying to integrate two families with four children in each. They were convinced that the tasks would have been easier with support and assistance.

Thanks to the Vishers' conviction, the Stepfamily Association of America was formed and its first Board of Directors meeting was held in December 1979. Emily noted "People were so happy to have someone to talk with who understood where they were coming from."

SAA chapters now exist in most states, as well as in seven foreign countries.

Emily won numerous awards for her work with stepfamilies, led more than 300 workshops, mostly with her husband, dealing with stepfamily dynamics and therapeutic strategies.

In the U.S., SAA is the only national not-for-profit membership organization for stepfamilies. "While we have made great strides, there is much work to do," said SAA president Margorie Engel.

"Emily was dynamic and inspired. She continued to attend SAA Board meetings, to teach and to lead workshops as part of her concern for the millions of stepfamilies in America," said CRC President David L. Levy, who is a member of the SAA Board.

"Emily's husband and her children and stepchildren respectfully request that memorial contributions be made to SAA to support the work she dearly loved," said Engel. SAA is at 650 J Street, Lincoln, NE 68508.

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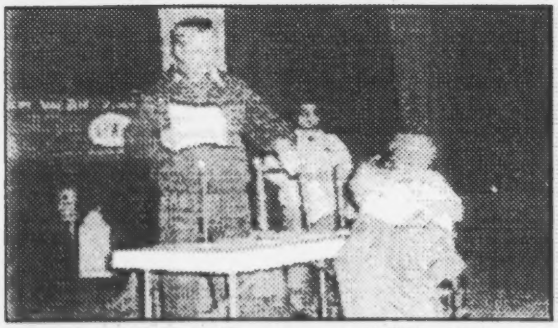

Dad, grandma, and child at Alabama Family Rights Association candlelight vigil in Huntsville, AL, September 25.

Purple Ribbons Symbolize Equal Parents Week

Patti Diroff
CRC Equal Parents' Week Coordinator

People in 22 states, along with eight foreign countries, tied purple ribbons and held candlelight vigils and other activities to observe CRC's 4th annual Equal Parent's Week ("EPW"), September 24-30, 2001.

EPW advocates that:

- parental rights and responsibilities be shared equally by unmarried parents;
- "The Best Parent Is Both Parents" should become an international mandate; and
- The purple ribbon is the symbol that sends this message.

Public events, "Home Vigils" and other activities were held in Alabama, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Fourteen public events, in conjunction with "Home Vigils", were held in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, Ireland, Nigeria, and Thailand.

Denial of access to and alienation from your children, and unjust deprivation of parental rights, are human rights violations that can no longer remain hidden. These issues are long overdue to be investigated, publicized and eliminated.

A survey recently conducted by the American Coalition for Fathers and Children found that 90.5% of noncustodial parents consider the amount of time with their children granted by courts inadequate; 82.0% have experienced access and visitation denial, and in 82.3 % of these cases, courts did nothing to enforce access (visitation).

Events in Brazil and Elsewhere

- Association of Separated Parents, Rio Grande RS Brazil. Jose Nestor of APASE said there was "a public vigil in Belo Horizonte with hundreds of people. We had coverage at the most important TV News program, Jornal da Globo from Globo Television, TV Universitia, and TV Bandeirantes, Tiempo newspaper, and Agora newspaper in Rio Grande.

- Parent and Child Advocacy Coalition, (PCAC), Prince George, British Columbia, Canada. An Equal Parents' Week rally was held Sept. 24 at the Kamloops courthouse. Parents of Broken Families (host group), along with Parent and Child Advocacy Coalition, and Parents' Coalition of British Columbia drew 35 people who marched through the court house and had a great impact. The event was advertised in two local papers, tv and radio.

- Equitable Child Maintenance and Access Society (ECMAS), Edmonton, Alberta CANADA. ECMAS Edmonton and Grandparents Unlimited held a vigil outside the office of the Federal Justice Minister, The Honorable Anne McLellan, which was filmed by a TV station. 630 CHED radio mentioned the vigil the next morning at every newscast for a couple hours. The mayor of Edmonton proclaimed Sept. 25, 2001 Equal Parents' Day.

- Vermont Dads held a rally in Rutland, VT and received press coverage from the Rutland Herald which included a photo with captions. Many passing motorists support the effort by honking their horns.

- The Equal Parenting Council, CRC UK Chapter held three candlelight vigils — one outside the home of Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, President of the Family Division (UK), which had been publicized by the local Exeter paper the day before; a vigil in Bristol, England held by Allen Anson outside the main entrance to the Bristol City Museum, that attracted several strangers who had problems gaining access to their children; the third vigil was in Cardiff outside a judge's house.

- PACE, Columbus, Ohio held its vigil across from the state Capitol in Columbus. Group leader Don Hubin said the morning of the vigil, every state legislator was e-mailed information, and one legislator, Diana Fessler of Miami County, joined the vigil and said she would introduce legislation that the group wanted.

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Seven States Receive Awards

Connecticut Lieutenant Governor Jodi Rell accepts CRC's "Best State Award" for children from Mark Roseman, CRC Connecticut coordinator, and John Kristoff, CRC's Connecticut social director.

Seven states received awards from the Children's Rights Council on July 25, 2001 "for their dedication through new laws and initiatives to preserve the family structure."

The awards were for parent education programs, child access and mediation programs, and more shared parenting for children and families. 2001 marks the second year in a row that CRC has presented these awards.

The winning states were Connecticut, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and New Hampshire. Connecticut received top honors as the "Best of the Best."

Connecticut received top honors as the "Best of the Best."

Seven members of Congress accepted the awards for their states at the press conference, held in the Gold Room of Rayburn House Office Building. They were Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), head of the Congressional Black Caucus; Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Rep. Nick Lampson (D-TX), Rep. Martin Sabo (R-MN), Rep. Van Hilleary (R-TN), Rep. Dennis Moore (D-MN), and Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-CT). Also accepting awards were Maryland officials Emelda Johnson, director of the state Department of Human Resources, and Teresa Kaiser, state child support director.

Mark Roseman, CRC Connecticut Coordinator, accepted on behalf of the state of Connecticut. The following day, Roseman, John Kristoff and Cathy Schwartz-Feldman, Connecticut CRC board members, presented the award in a private ceremony in Hartford to Lieutenant Governor Jodi Rell. Connecticut Governor John Rowland was on vacation with his children (an excuse CRC could not find fault with) and could not attend.

Various media sources covered the event.

Connecticut

— for having one of the highest rates of shared parenting (joint custody) in the U.S. Connecticut now requires parenting education programs for separated and divorced parents to raise awareness concerning the impact of divorce and restructuring of families on children. The program includes discussion of child developmental stages, adjustment of children after parental separation, conflict management, access guidelines, stress reduction for children and shared parenting.

Also, Connecticut passed a law requiring parents under eighteen years of age to live with a parent or legal guardian while raising their child(ren). This law helps encourage responsible parenting, provides support for young parents, and promotes family values.

Maryland

— Ray was a teenage father when he went to jail on a felony conviction for 17 years. By the time he was released two years ago, he owed the state of Maryland $14,000 in child support to defray the cost of welfare for his children and their mothers.

Today, Ray, which is not his real name, is part of a pilot program started by Maryland child-support officials to 'leverage' his $14,000 debt.

Under the program, Ray had to graduate from a community-based program that teaches job readiness or responsible fatherhood, get a job and make child-support arrangements for six months.

In return, the state erased 25 percent of Ray's debt.

According to Teresa Kaiser, Maryland's child support director, if Ray participates in the program again, and remains responsible, all of his state debt could be gone.

Child-support debt is supposed to be unforgivable. Under a federal law championed by former Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey, judges are forbidden from retroactively reducing or forgiving child-support. While this law was intended to stop judges from unilaterally wiping out debt based on parents' sob stories, it also had the unintended consequence of creating a debt meter that couldn't be stopped. This applies even to parents who are hospitalized for months, given long prison sentences, or taken hostage in foreign countries.

Maryland's initiative helps parents in these situations to get back on track and remain a part of their children's lives.

Continued on page 23

Children's Rights Council

Yes! I want to join CRC! I will receive a New Member Packet, including the latest issue of "Speak Out for Children" a bumper sticker saying "The Best Parent is Both Parents," a discount Hertz coupon, a low APR credit card application, and, if requested, the names of 3 groups that can help me.

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- ❑ Supporting Member, $250
- ❑ Life Member, $750
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May we occasionally give your name to other groups for mailings approved by CRC? ___ Yes ___ No

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Children's Rights Council

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BOOKS FOR KIDS

A Heart Full of Love, written by Bette S. Margolis, illustrated by Christie L. Kline. A wonderful book for that special 7- to 9-year-old in your life who is undergoing parental divorce.
SB-101 _____ $15.00

I Love You More Than..., by Elizabeth Hickey and James Cohen. Illustrated by Lynda Smart Brown, 1998.
HB-102 _____ $16.95

How to Survive Your Parent's Divorce: Kids Advice to Kids, by Gayle Kimball.
SB-104 _____ $4.00

I Think Divorce Stinks, by Marcia Lebowitz. 1992. Helps children recognize that it is appropriate to have negative feelings about divorce and to express those feelings.
SB-105 _____ $4.95

What am I Doing in a Stepfamily?, by Claire Berman.
SB-106 _____ $12.00

It's Not Your Fault, Koko Bear, by Vicki Lansky, 1998. Koko Bear can help children understand divorce and sends a good message.
SB-107 _____ $5.99

The Divorce Workbook, by Sally Ives, David Fassler & Michelle Lascn.
SB-108 _____ $15.95

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

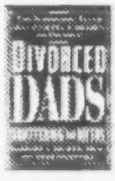
NEW!

The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce—A 25-Year Landmark Study, by Judith S. Wallerstein, Julia M. Lewis, and Sandra Blakeslee, 2000. The best-selling book that says many children of divorce suffer long-term effects from divorce.
SB-200 _____ $24.95

50/50 Parenting, by Gayle Kimball, Ph.D. Almost 300 co-parents and 83 children report on life in married, divorced, and step-family situations.
SB-201 _____ $9.95

Divorce Book for Parents, by Vicki Lansky.
HB-203 _____ $6.00

The Divorce Help Source Book, by Margorie Engel.
SB-204 _____ $7.00



Divorced Dads, Shattering the Myths, by Sanford L. Braver, Ph.D., 1998. The surprising truth about fathers, children and divorce.
HB-205 _____ $24.95

For the Sake of the Children, by Kris Kline and Stephen Pew, 1992. Discusses how to share your children with your ex-spouse despite your anger. Kline is CRC's Florida coordinator. PHOTOCOPIES ONLY!
HB-206 _____ $9.00

NEW!

This Child of Mine: A Therapist's Journey, by Martha Wakenshaw. Stories of abused and neglected children who are travelling the road to recovery. This book can help other abused children to recover.
HB-209 _____ $12.95

A Hole in My Heart, by Claire Berman, 1991. A book that will enable adult children of divorce to recognize the role they play in changing patterns in their lives.
SB-210 _____ $5.00

Families Apart, by Melinda Blau.
SB-211 _____ $10.00

REVISED!

Mom's House. Dad's House, by Isolina Ricci, Ph.D., 1998. Making shared custody work: How parents can make two homes for their children after divorce. 100 **New** pages to this classic book!
SB-212 _____ $20.00

Putting Kids First, by Michael Oddenino. A must read for caring parents and professionals, by CRC's General Counsel. Includes a children's bill of rights.
SB-215 _____ $9.95

Surviving the Break-Up, How Children and Parents Cope with Divorce, by Judith Wallerstein, Ph.D. and Joan Kelly, Ph.D.
SB-217 _____ $10.00

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REVISED!

Creating a Successful Parenting Plan, by Dr. Jayne A. Major, 1998. Nationally acclaimed author of "Breakthrough Parenting" and "Winning the Custody War Without Casualties"
SB-218 _____ $24.95

3 Steps to a Strong Family, by Linda and Richard Eyre.
HB-219 _____ $19.50

The Best Parent is Both Parents: A Guide to Shared Parenting in the 21st Century, the CRC book edited by David L. Levy, 1993. If you would like copies (individual or bulk order) autographed by David L. Levy, just state to whom you would like it autographed (yourself, perhaps your children—give their names).
SB-221 _____ $10.00
Order 10 copies or more each only $4.00

Helping Your Kids Cope With Divorce, by M. Gary Neuman, L.M.H.C.
HB-222 _____ $25.00

NEW!

Ceasefire, by Cathy Young, 1999, syndicated columnist. Why women and men must join forces to achieve true equality; how that will help children, too.
HB-224 _____ $25.00

Friends for Life, by Susan Jonas and Marilyn Nissenson, 1997. Enriching the bond between mothers and their adult daughters.
HB-227 _____ $29.00

Talking Back to Ritalin, by Peter R. Breggin, M.D., 1998, 4-time guest on Oprah. What doctors aren't telling you about the dangers of stimulants.
HB-228 _____ $25.00

The Assault on Parenthood, by Dana Mack.
HB-229 _____ $10.00

Babyhood, by Paul Reiser.
HB-230 _____ $10.00

Working Fathers, by James A. Levine, CRC Advisor, and Todd L. Pittinsky. A guide to help fathers as well as mothers, employees and managers, succeed in managing the competitive demands of home and work.
HB-231 _____ $10.00

The War Against Parents, by Sylvia Ann Hewlett and Cornel West.
HB-232 _____ $10.00

The Divorce Culture, by Barbara Dafoe Whitehead.
HB-233 _____ $10.00

Business Dad, by Tom Hirschfeld. How Good Businessmen Can Make Great Fathers (and Vice Versa).
HB-218 _____ $10.00

Ask the Children, by Ellen Galinsky.
HB-235 _____ $10.00

Saying No Is Not Enough – Raising Children Who Make Wise Decisions About Drugs and Alcohol, by Robert Schwebel.
HB-236 _____ $5.00

Mars and Venus in Love, by John Gray, Ph.D.
HB-238 _____ $10.00

Father's Day – Notes from a New Dad in the Real World, by Bill McCoy. 1995. A wonderful book for all new and not-so-new dads.
HB-242 _____ $10.00

LIFE with Father, LIFE Magazine, 1995. A wonderful gift book for men. 82 photographs collected from the archives of LIFE magazine, depicting images of LIFE with father.
HB-243 _____ $10.00

Building a Marriage – 10 Tools for Creating, Repairing, and Maintaining Your Lives Together, by Cranor Graves.
HB-245 _____ $5.00

Masculinity Reconstructed, by Dr. Ronald F. Levant. Changing the rules of manhood-at work, in relationships and in family life.
HB-247 _____ $10.00

Throwaway Dads, by Ross D. Parke and Armin A. Brott, 1999. The myths and barriers that keep men from being the fathers they want to be. "An essential guide not only for fathers, but for a culture that is not sure what to do with them" (Gurian, Michael)
HB-248 _____ $20.00

The Divorced Parent – Success Strategies for Raising Your Children After Separation, by Stephanie Marston.
HB-249 _____ $12.00

NEW!

Complex Issues in Child Custody Evaluations, by Philip M. Stahl, 1999. In this book, the author provides a theoretical and practical understanding of many of the factors that make custody evaluations complex.
HB-250 _____ $30.00

Peace with Your Partner – A Practical Guide to a Happy Marriage, by Cranor Graves.
HB-252 _____ $5.00

Books for Stepparents

Making it as a Stepparent, New Roles/New Rules, by Claire Berman, 1986. Former president of the Stepfamily Association of America provides practical help and insights.
SB-302 _____ $7.95

Stepfamilies Stepping Ahead, edited by Mala Burt for the Stepfamily Association of America.
SB-303 _____ $9.95

Making Peace in Your Stepfamily, by Harold H. Bloomfield, M.D.
HB-404 _____ $10.00

Books for Grandparents

Grandparents as Parents: A Survival Guide for Raising a Second Family, by Sylvie de Toledo and Deborah Edler Brown. A "how-to" manual for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.
HB-403 _____ Reg. $17.00

Books for Single Parents

Still a Dad, The Divorced Father's Journey, by CRC's own Serge Prengel, 1998. Published with praise from Warren Farrell, Karen DeCrow, and James A. Cook.
SB-2501 _____ $13.95

Surviving Divorce—Women's Resources After Separation, by Mavis Maclean.
HB-502 _____ $5.00

Fatherless America, by David Blankenhorn, 1995. Shows the devastating consequences of fatherlessness in both individual families and in our society.
HB-504 _____ $10.00

Money-Smart Divorce. What Women Need to Know about Money and Divorce, by Esther M. Berger, 1996.
SB-507 _____ $22.00

Why Men Are the Way They Are, by Warren Farrell.
SB-509 _____ $3.00

Fathers' Rights, by Jeffrey Leving. A best-selling book for fathers who want to maintain contact with their children.
SB-510 _____ $12.50

The Divorced Parent: Success Strategies for Raising Your Children After Separation, by Stephanie Marston, 1994. Provides practical advice and specific tools for raising well-adjusted children.
HB-511 _____ $21.00

Child Custody Made Simple, by Webster Watnik, 1997. Answers all your questions about child custody and child support for a single parent.
SB-513 _____ $21.95

The Single Parent's Money Guide, by Emily Card.
SB-514 _____ $6.00

Questions from Dad, by CRC Spokesperson and pop singer Dwight Twilley, 1994. A very cool way to communicate with your child. Introduced by Dr. Susan Forward.
SB-515 _____ $17.00

Men on Divorce—The Other Side of the Story, edited by Penny Kaganoff and Susan Spano, 1997.
SB-517 _____ $6.00

The Prodigal Father (Reuniting Fathers and Their Children), by Mark Bryan, 1997. "'The Prodigal Father' is a prescription for renewal, offering fathers, mothers, and children a chance to forgive, redeem, and heal their broken relationships and reconstruct whole, healthy, and reconciled lives" (Claudia Highbaugh)
HB-605 _____ $10.00

Mediation/Conflict Resolution

Family Evaluations in Child Custody, Mediation, Arbitration and Litigation, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1989. In this update, Gardner proposes a three-phase system to remove child custody evaluations from courtroom litigation.
HB-601 _____ $45.00

Healing Hearts, Helping Children and Adults Recover from Divorce, by Elizabeth Hickey, M.S.W., CRC's National Parent Education Director, and Elizabeth Dalton, attorney and mediator
HB-602 _____ $15.00

Parent Vs. Parent: How You and Your Child Can Survive the Custody Battle, by Stephen P. Herman, M.D.
HB-603 _____ $20.95

Legal Issues

NEW!

From Courtship to Courtroom: What Divorce Law Is Doing to Marriage, by Jed H. Abraham, 2000. Abraham, a lawyer, mediator, and joint custody advocate, writes a chilling picture of how today's divorce laws make life miserable for families.
SB-701 _____ $15.00

A Family Divided, by Robert Mendelson, 1997. A discussion of a divorced father's struggle with the child custody industry.
HB-703 _____ $10.00

The Custody Revolution, by Richard Warshak, 1992. The Father Factor and the Motherhood Mystique.
HB-704 _____ $15.00

Custody for Fathers, by Carleen and Michael Brennan, 1994. Includes more than 100 strategies that have helped fathers win (share) custody of their children in a mom-biased system.
HB-705 _____ $12.00

Divorce and the Myth of Lawyers, by Lenard Marlow, J.D.
HB-706 _____ $10.95

The Father's Emergency Guide to Divorce/Custody Battle, A Tour Through the Predatory World of Judges, Lawyers, Psychologists and Social Workers in the Subculture of Divorce, by Robert Seidenberg, with the legal insights of Williams Dawes, Esq., 1997.
SB-707 _____ $15.00

Every Parent's Guide to the Law, by Deborah L. Forman. Everything you need to know about legal issues affecting parents and children pre-birth through the child-rearing years.
SB-708 _____ $18.00

Divorce Yourself, the National No-Fault Divorce Kit, by Daniel Sitarz.
SB-709 _____ $15.00

NEW!

Betrayal of the Child, by Stewart Rein, 2001. A father's guide to Family Courts. "A book that refutes the single parent theology and concludes that only two parents can serve the best interests of children" (Dr. John Chipingdon)
SB-710 _____ $22.95

Parental Kidnapping

Autographed Copies!
They Are My Children, Too, by Catherine Meyer, 1999. Powerful account of a mother's loss of her children. A case of international parental kidnapping. Written by CRC's new Honorary President.
HB-801 _____ $23.00

When Parents Kidnap, by Geoffrey Greif and Rebecca Hegar.
HB-802 _____ $22.95

NEW!
Run to the Sun, by Robert Davé, 20001. A novel of suspense. The story of parental kidnapping, conspiracy and lies.
HB-803 _____ $16.95

The Recovery of Internationally Abducted Children, by Maureen Dabbagh, 1997. This book is a guide, outlining the legal steps to try to recover your internationally abducted child. Dabbagh provides advice on working with foreign attorneys and embassies, and gathering information on the abductor.
HB-804 _____ $20.00

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Child Abuse

NEW!
Elusive Innocence: Survival Guide for the Falsely Accused, by Dean Tong, 2001. "Elusive Innocence should be a wake-up call to child advocates and lawmakers" — Kathleen Parker, nationally syndicated columnist.
SB-911 _____ $15.99

The Parental Alienation Syndrome, A guide for mental health and legal professionals, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1995. An authoritative work on the Parental Alienation Syndrome.
SB-903 _____ $35.00

NEW!
Therapeutic Interventions for Children with Parental Alienation Syndrome, by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. (2001). This is a book for therapists working with families where children are alienated from a parent.
SB-904 _____ $40.00

Children Held Hostage, Dealing with Programmed and Brainwashed Children, by Stanley S. Clawar, Ph.D., C.C.S. and Brynne Rivlin, M.S.S., 1991. This book is approved by the American Bar Association.
SB-905 _____ $50.00

Recognizing Child Abuse, by Douglas Besharov, Ph.D.
SB-906 _____ $12.00

The Book of David, How Preserving Families Can Cost Children's Lives, by Richard Gelles.
HB-907 _____ $23.00

Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy, by Alex V. Levin, MD., and Mary S. Sheridan.
HB-908 _____ $30.00

Psychology

Father/Daughter, Mother/Son, by Verena Kast.
SB-1001 _____ $13.00

How Can I get Through to You? by D.Glenn Foster and Mary Marshall.
SB-1002 _____ $12.95

Contemporary Issues

The New Victorians – A Young Woman's Challenge to the Old Feminist Order, by Rene Denfeld.
CI-102 _____ $6.00

Victories of the Heart, by Robert Mark and Buddy Portugal, 1996. The inside-story of a pioneer men's group and how men help each other change their lives.
CI-104 _____ $10.00

Videos

Children: The Experts on Divorce, by Elizabeth Hickey, MSW 1994. The children speak from their own experience of going through their parents' divorce.
V101 _____ $25.00

Don't Forget The Children, by the Dallas, Texas Association of Young Lawyers. A CRC award-winning video that provides information on co-parenting in the event of divorce.
V102 _____ $20.00

Psychotherapeutic & Legal Approaches To Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS), by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. An in-depth discussion of ways that parents can alienate the child against the other parent.
V103 _____ $25.00

Reports

Interference with Access (Visitation) as a Tort. Updated 1997.
R101 _____ $10.00

Parenting Plans. Three different parenting plans.
R102 _____ $10.00

Joint Custody as a Child's Right—a law review article (1988), a legal brief with citations up to 1994 and a report by Section 16 of the American Psychological Association describing "favorable outcomes" for children (1995)
R103 _____ $10.00

Special CRC CD

Ernie Ashworth and Friends: Sing out For the Children's Rights Council, Hadassah sings "Hear the Cries of the Children"
CD-101 _____ $12.00

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The famous "Children First" pin. 8 colors, with figures of seven children standing on a field of green with logo "Children First." Two prongs. 3/4" high, 1-1/2" wide.
P101 _____ $8.00

Button created by Patti Diroff that says "Responsibility, cooperation, sacrifice, Unconditional Love, Shared Parenting, Children's Rights Council"
B202 _____ $2.00

T-Shirts

CRC 4-color t-shirts say "Help Stop Crime, Give Children 2 Parents" Specify size: child S, M, L; Adult S, M, L, XL. Specify color: white or blue.
_____ $10 adults, $8 children

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_____ $1 apiece, 6 for $5.00

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SneakPreviews

Coming in the Next Issue

A New Look at Alienation of Children
by Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D.

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Current Legislation

Precedent-Setting Court Cases

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Transfer-Mation

continued from page 5

have primary care of their children.

Supervised access takes place on Saturday mornings. A parent will have a block of time, either two hours, or four hours, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to be with his or her child.

Costs for running supervised sites are higher than for transfer sites, because of increased security and liability insurance.

The reason for transfer is usually because of communication problems between the parents, or a parent discouraging access.

"We believe there is a much greater need for transfer sites than supervised sites, and the judges we work with realize that," said Ellis. "We look upon these transfers as transitional parenting, until parents can learn to transfer their children at their own homes without our help. At these sites, parents learn to focus on their children, not on their own parental arguments with each other."

"The reasons for supervised access are because of alcohol or substance abuse problems, re-entry of a parent into a child's life after a long absence, severe communication problems, or family violence," said Ellis.

Levy said CRC believes that transfer and supervised access should be ordered only where absolutely necessary, so as to cause the least possible infringement on the first amendment liberty interest of free association between a child and a parent.

Wuwert has opened three transfer sites in Ohio, and is working on opening sites in Michigan and Indiana.

Mark Roseman, CRC's Assistant Child Access Director—Eastern Region, has opened a site in New Haven, Connecticut, and is working on opening sites in other Eastern seaboard states.

Fred Wall, CRC coordinator for North/South Carolina, opened a site in Wilmington, NC, at St. Mark's Catholic Church in September, 2001.

Al Ellis and Fred Wall conducted a training session for judges and volunteers in Wilmington, NC, a few months before the site opened.

Terry Cady, CRC Illinois coordinator, administers the largest program, a $200,000 state-funded program that provides a wide range of services in DuPage County, just outside of Chicago. Many organizations provide the services, which include parenting education, parenting plans, transfer and supervised access, and mediation.

CRC has established a "Manual on How to Establish Child Access Sites in Cooperation with Faith-Based Institutions." It is available free on www.gocrc.com, CRC's website.

Although the information is free, people who are interested in this issue are urged to work with CRC, because CRC has experience in operating such sites, and in obtaining funding.

The location of the sites are provided in the table on the following page. Future sites are planned in Michigan, California, New Jersey, and elsewhere. Call CRC for information on how to establish a site in your community.

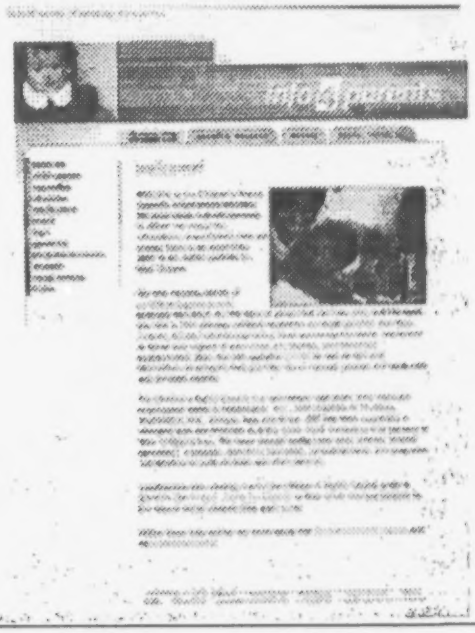
Congress Provided Funds

CRC was the catalyst behind the initial funding of $3 million in the 1988 Family Support Act of 7 demonstration projects in the states to improve relationships between children and their non-residential parents. These demonstration projects were so successful that in the 1996 Welfare Reform Act, Congress allocated $10 million a year for **all** the states to share in to provide programs "to improve relationships between children and their non-custodial parents." The $10 million is block granted to the states; that is, each state receives an average of $183,000 for various programs, some of which are for transfer and supervised access sites. Now in its fifth year, a total of $50 million has been provided to the states, the largest funding ever by Congress to connect children with their non-custodial parents.

CRC and its chapters have received grants from child support offices in Maryland and the District of Columbia to administer sites in those jurisdictions.

Check Out info4parents

www.info4parents.com is our parenting website, supported by a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.



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"Safe Haven" Site Locations

Maryland
Over-all supervision by Al Ellis, CRC's Director of Child Access Services

Hyattsville (Prince George's County). St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. CRC's first site, opened in 1997. Contact Jimmie Curley (301) 388-9632.

Beltsville (Prince George's County). The Lutheran Church of the Abiding Presence, Beltsville, Maryland. Contact Barbara or Bill Knock (301) 498-8098.

Clinton (Prince George's County). Antioch Baptist Church, Clinton, Maryland. Contact Jimmie Curley (202) 388-9632.

Potomac (Montgomery County). St James Episcopal Church, Potomac, Maryland. Contact Al Ellis (301) 590-8621.

Frederick (Frederick County). Calvary United Methodist Church, Frederick, MD Contact Ms. Shauna Main, Director of Family Life (301) 662-14634, voice mail #13.

Baltimore City Providence Baptist Church Education Center, Baltimore, MD. Contact CRC at (202) 547-6227 or call Mrs. Noakes at (410) 523-9129.

Dundalk (Baltimore County). Dundalk United Methodist Church, Dundalk, Maryland. Contact Rob or Sandy Snow at (410) 889-4908.

Severna Park/Annapolis Wood Memorial Presbyterian Church, Severna Park, MD. Contact Bill Paull (410) 647-5885.

Connecticut
New Haven Center Church on the Green. Contact CRC of Connecticut at (203) 288-7827 or Patti Beale at (203) 288-2368.

District of Columbia
Hillcrest Children's Center, Bowen YMCA. Contact Frank Banner CRC chapter head, Washington, D.C., (202) 232-6100.

Illinois
DuPage County, The Parents and Kids in Partnerships (PAK) Project. Contact Sheila Murphy-Russell (630) 682-7324.

Ohio
Hope United Methodist Church, Toledo. Contact phone (419) 473-8955.

Peace Lutheran Church, Lucas County. Contact Kim and Bill Warner, phone (419) 241-1178.

Delta Assembly of God, Fulton County. Contact Kevin and Dorothy Cordle, phone (419) 822-9732.

Virginia
Fairfax City, Fairfax County. Fairfax Presbyterian Church. Contact John Heartney (703) 257-3566.

CRC folks at the wedding; top row, Al and Mary Ellis, middle row (l to r) Ellen and David Levy, Julie and Jeff, Kevin Gallagher, Mark Roseman, Paul Robinson, front row (l to r) Harvey Walden, Wilkie Woodard.

CRC's Office Manager Marries

A horse-drawn carriage carried Julie Maggiacomo, CRC's office manager, to her wedding September 1 at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Washington, D.C. The priest began the service for Julie and her husband Jeff Carrera by saying that it may appear ridiculous for anybody to be getting married in this day and age of frequent family problems. That opening got everyone's attention. But then the priest said that despite frequent family breakdowns, Jeff and Julie loved each other, were making a commitment to one another, and were determined to make their marriage work. With that kind of attitude, the priest said, marriage was a simple choice to make.

After the ceremony, Jeff joined Julie in the horse-drawn carriage that took them to the wedding reception. Julie is now Julie Maggiacomo Carrera.

Intellectual Property Protection

Charlie Ruggiero, who obtained trademark protection for the name and logo "Children's Rights Council" and the name and logo for our newsletter "Speak Out for Children" is a specialist in trademark, patent, copyright, and licensing law. He is a partner in the law firm of Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero and Perle, 1 Landmark Square, Suite 903, Stamford, CT 06901, telephone (203) 327-6067.

Beat the Tax Man: Contribute to CRC

Keep working for children. Consider establishing a charitable trust or a bequest to CRC. Contact CRC for further information. We will be happy to help you.

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Seven States

Continued from page 14

Minnesota

— distributes statewide a packet entitled, 'A Parental Guide to Making Child-Focused Parenting Time Decisions'. The packet was developed by the Minnesota Supreme Court Advisory Task Force on Visitation and Child Support Enforcement along with consultation from child development experts statewide.

It emphasizes the importance of active involvement by both parents in a child's life. The packet states that children fare best when they have the emotional support and ongoing involvement of both parents. Also included is information identifying children's specific needs at each stage of development.

This packet was approved by the Minnesota Conference of Chief Judges. The packet is not only used by parents but judges, attorneys, and guardian ad litems to aid in resolving custody disputes. (Free copies of the packet available from CRC; enclose $5 for S/H).

Tennessee

— recently enacted six new laws dealing with divorce designed to help protect children and families. Several legal terms "custody" and "visitation" were replaced with friendlier terms — "shared parenting" and "parental responsibilities". Divorcing parents may participate in mediation programs where they are encouraged to produce parenting plans for the raising of their children post-divorce.

Additional laws state that, blocking court-ordered parenting time may result in the loss of recreational and/or professional licenses.

Tennessee also granted grandparents the right to sue for the right to visitation and to be a part of their grandchild's life. Another new law provided non-residential parents a right to access the medical records of their child(ren), unless forbidden by the courts.

The Parents' Bill of Rights was also expanded, adding three new rights: 48 hour notification of any events to which parents are normally invited to participate, non-custodial parental involvement in all school activities, and contact information when either parent leaves the state for two or more nights with a minor child. Finally, Tennessee created a State Commission on Responsible Fatherhood.

Texas

— created new visitation and exchange centers that allow parents to transfer children from one parent to the other for the weekend. Texas also developed an excellent network of online child support information. The user-friendly and informative Web site titled, The Child Support Program of Texas, offers information on interactive support, child support evaders, parental rights and responsibilities, resources for single parents, outreach and volunteer programs, as well as why children need legal fathers.

Publishing these resources in an easy accessible format helps parents help their children with a change in the family structure.

Virginia

The Parental Education for Divorcing Parents law requires parents involved in custody and visitation cases to attend parenting classes. These classes address the issues of parental and financial responsibilities and provide conflict resolution tips. This law helps promote joint parenting by educating parents on how they both can remain in their children's lives.

In addition to parenting seminars, Virginia provides for mediation in custody or visitation disputes that is paid for by state funds. Once again, mediation as a method for negotiating divorce cases deserves praise as it reduces the hostility of a long, drawn-out court battle, and thus protects children from the hurt inflicted by such a battle. By assuming the cost of the mediation, Virginia has demonstrated a dedication to helping families and children.

New Hampshire

Legislators in New Hampshire introduced bills that would require both parents to mediate in an attempt to reach a mutual agreement in divorce cases. The bills would also have encouraged parents to participate in a mediation process to design a parenting plan. In creating such a plan, parents would be encouraged to share the rights and responsibilities of raising their children. Although these bills did not become law, CRC wished to encourage New Hampshire to pass such legislation to help ensure that each child maintains a frequent and continuing relationship with each parent, regardless of marital status.

CRC college student intern Amy Young (right) and State Sen. Mary Lazich (R-WI) at the roundtable discussion Amy gave on behalf of CRC at the National Foundation for Women Legislators annual conference at the Ritz Carlton Hotel, Washington, D.C., September 28, 2001.

Continued from page 6

is imperative that the therapist or counselor be willing to make action-based interventions including specific suggestions to change the existing system and produce results that are in the best interests of the children. A parallel parenting approach is often highly effective since it focuses on what the individual parent can change and not on attempting to change the other parent.

References

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McBride, J. (2000) Programs for High Conflict Separated/Divorced Parents: Lessons from the Front. Paper presented at the Pre Congress Institute Addressing the Needs of High Conflict Families, Fourth International Congress on Parent Education Programs, Association of Family, Court and Community, Kiawah, South Carolina.

Mikesell, R. H., Lusterman, D. D., and McDaniel, S. H. (1995) Integrating Family Therapy: Handbook of Family Psychology and Systems Theory. Washington DC: American Psychological Association.

Stahl, P.M. (2000) Parenting After Divorce. Atascadero, CA. Impact Publishers Inc.

Issues in Parallel Parenting

Positive Issues

- One parent does not have to directly persuade the other parent to change their feelings, attitudes or behavior. Change does occur, but through modeling and by not engaging in reciprocal behavior patterns which often become increasingly negative.
- Power struggles are reduced.
- Children are less likely to be 'caught in the middle' and/or have the opportunity to play one parent off the other.
- Decisions are made relatively easily and the children know that they can rely on the individual parent.
- The parents themselves are more likely to emotionally detach from each other and move forward with their own lives, which is ultimately better for the children.

Negative Issues

- In order to minimize conflict, children may be deprived of activities, events and experiences which require parental cooperation.
- While power struggles over day-to-day life may be reduced (curfews, driving privileges, etc) impasses may well still be present for larger issues such as education, religion, etc.
- The children do not have the opportunity to experience their parents cooperate.

Keys for Parallel Parenting

1. Focus on your long-term goal and keep it primary - the well-being of your children.
2. By not expressing feelings/emotions - anger, rage, guilt, anxiety, depression, love, hate, etc., directly to your estranged/ex-spouse, you have a much better chance of being a better parent. Choose not to let your estranged ex-spouse express feelings/emotions to you.
3. Keep all parental communications with your estranged/ex spouse centered around the children. Discussions should be task-oriented, focused, and brief.
4. Communicate with your estranged/ex-spouse by voicemail, e-mail or in writing.
5. Use the phone sparingly and limit face to face contact only to events which involve the children.
6. Adhere as strictly as possible to the residential and visitation schedules of your children. Observe the boundaries established between the two households.
7. Try not to ask your estranged/ex- spouse for anything – their automatic response will often be to say no. Wait until they ask you for something, then you are in a position to bargain.
8. Understand that you often have a negative influence on your estranged/ex-spouse. Therefore don't try to change their behavior – only change what you can – your behavior.
9. Find creative ways to accept your estranged/ex-spouse's behavior –composing letters to them that you never send, talk to confidants, divorce support groups, etc.
10. Seek professional help. A therapist or counselor can often help develop a parenting style which can reduce conflicts and minimize loyalty dilemmas for the children.

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Family Law

Continued from page 8

the support award before reducing his payments, the Court of Appeals said, justifying this view by saying that parents could not bargain away their children's support rights.

Shoup v. Shoup, Va. Ct. App., No. 0098-00-4, 2/27/01

Grandparent Visitation

New Jersey's grandparent visitation statute is unconstitutional, as applied in the case of a recently widowed mother whose children's paternal grandparents demeaned her character during visitation, the state's Superior Court, Appellate Division, decided June 22.

The court noted that the statute required the petitioning grandparent to prove that visitation would be in the child's best interests.

Wilde v. Wilde, N.J. Super. Ct. App. Div., No. A-618-00T5, 6/22/01

Separating Siblings

A custody order that separated siblings between their parents was wrong, without compelling circumstances dictating that it was in their best interests, the California Court of Appeal, Second District, held on April 26.

The court remanded the case, and directed the lower court to order a separation of the siblings only upon a well-articulated showing of compelling circumstances.

Williams v. Williams, Cal. Ct. App., No. B145636, 4/26/01

Immunity Status of Custody Evaluators

A court-appointed social worker and the psychologist who aided her in making a custody evaluation in a divorce proceeding are immune from liability arising from their duties, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit held Feb. 27. The court said that their duties were similar to a guardian ad litem or a court-appointed doctor, both of whom are considered arms of the appointing court for immunity purposes.

Hughes v. Long, 3d Cir., No. 99-2037, 2/27/01

Unsupported Abuse Claims

A father should not have been denied visitation with his two sons for more than five years solely because of an unsubstantiated claim that he had sexually abused one of them, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals held June 7. The court said the trial judge had abused his discretion in failing to hold an evidentiary hearing once the accusation came to light.

The Court of Appeals held that denial of visitation was based in part on the father's failure to follow through on recommended counseling. The visitation denial was "a somewhat drastic remedy for imperfect compliance," the court said.

In re Ko. W. & K.W., D.C., No. 98-FS-128, 6/7/01

All cases except the first two are summarized from Family Law Reporter, published by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. They appear here by permission of the publisher.

State Legislation

Oklahoma Strengthens Shared Parenting Law

Oklahoma was the first state in the U.S. to create an equal time share with the child from the time of the first court hearing, if either parent asks for it. This was the Oklahoma Parentage Act that became law in 1999.

Many judges were not giving equal time, and were failing to write down in a court order why they were not granting it, said Greg Palumbo, Ph.D., executive director of Oklahomans for Families Alliance.

"So the legislature passed an amendment to the law in 2001, requiring judges to state on paper why they are not granting an equal 50/50 time share pendente lite (a legal time for the first court hearing when parents separate)".

The amendment to the law was signed by Gov. Frank Keating (R), and took effect November 1, 2001. See Section 3, Chapter 301, O.S.L. 1999 (43 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 110.1 as amended).

Palumbo said the legislature passed another bill, that requires notification to either the other parent or the grandparents within 48 hours of a child being removed from a household by social services. After being signed by Gov. Keating, this bill became effective April 10. The purpose of this bill is to provide an opportunity for the other parent or the grandparents to raise the child rather than have the child placed with strangers. Keating is one of the nation's leading governors working to strengthen the two-parent family, both in marriage, and in the event of separation or divorce. See 10 O.S. Supp. 2000, Sec. 7003-5.5 as amended.

New Strong Shared Parenting Law in Maine

Maine has passed a law stating that "it is in the public policy of this State to assure minor children of frequent and continuing contact with both parents after the parents have separated or dissolved their marriage and that it is in the public interest to encourage parents to share the right and responsibilities of child rearing in order to effect this policy." See Sec. 1.19-A MRSA #1653, sub-Sec 1.

The law establishes a priority for governing the ordering of parental rights and responsibilities. The first choice is to both parents jointly, and if the court does not order joint responsibility, "the court shall state in its decision the reasons for not ordering" shared parenting rights and responsibilities.

This is a major change in Maine law.

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effective parenting through counseling, mentoring and parenting education, dissemination of educational materials and information parenting skills, encouragement of positive father involvement, including the positive involvement of non-resident fathers, and other methods."

The other fatherhood bills which have been pending, but which are not expected to pass, are S. 653, introduced by Sen. Evan Bayh (D-IN) and H.R. 1300, introduced by Rep. Julia Carson (D-IN). Also previously introduced were bills sponsored by Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-CT), former chairman of the Human Resources Subcommittee, and Rep. Ben Cardin (D-MD), ranking Democrat on the Human Resources Subcommittee.

H.R. 2893 provides for national campaigns, including a national media campaign, which possibly only the National Fatherhood Initiative would quality for because of its media experience. CRC would prefer a state-by-state approach to media campaigns and other programs, which was the approach of S. 653 and H.R. 1300. You may wish to write to your Representative in Congress urging that the media campaign approach of S. 653 and H.R. 1300 be adapted to H.R. 2893.

Other programs in the bill would be run state by state in H.R. 2893, but not the media campaign. A local approach to media would allow states to tailor the media approach to the particular needs within each state, and to permit wider distribution of funding. For example, TV may be the best forum in some parts of a state, newspaper or magazine ads elsewhere, or flyers and pamphlets in a yet third geographic area.

Because Republicans generally favor local and state control of funding, your argument to them should be based on this argument. For Democratic (as well as Republican) Congressmembers, indicate the groups in your state that might qualify for such funding on the local level.

Note: Although these are called fatherhood bills, CRC views them as parenting bills, because we see the aim as connecting fathers to mothers to children.

President Bush Urged to Make Child's Day a National Holiday

The U.S. is one of the few countries that do not celebrate a national child's day. But that situation may be changing.

After the U.S. Senate passed a resolution declaring the first Sunday in June as Children's Day for the year 2001, President Bush issued a supportive proclamation. The presidential proclamation marked Sunday, June 3, 2001, as National Child's Day.

The Senate Resolution was sponsored by Senator Bob Graham (D-FL).

CRC and FOCUS, a group based in Florida headed by Ms. Lee Rechter, are now asking the President to declare Children's Day a permanent, national holiday.

"That way, Congress would not have to pass a resolution each year," said Ms. Rechter.

Each year for the past 6 years, either the House or the Senate has passed a one-time resolution. Earlier House resolutions declared Children's Day in October. But for the past three years, Senator Graham has sponsored a Senate resolution declaring that Children's Day is the first Sunday in June.

"This nestles it between Mother's Day and Father's Day, just where it should be," said CRC President David L. Levy.

CRC held a press conference on National Child's Day at the National Capital Children's Museum, attended by Washington, D.C. and Senate officials.

BOOKS: The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce

Wallerstein's landmark 25-year study "The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce" provides convincing evidence that divorce has long-lasting effects that sprout roots in a child's early years. Through descriptions of the personal stories of five people, which have been composed over 25 years of in-depth interviews and conversations. Wallerstein emphasizes the importance of seeing the world through each individual's eyes. In this light, she depicts the important turning points for children of divorce over time and how individuals can overcome the 'unexpected legacy' they are left to deal with.

Everyone effected by divorce has their own story and anyone will be able to recognize aspects of themselves in the stories Wallerstein describes. In one of the first ever long-term reports on divorce, Wallerstein compares a control group of children from intact homes, to finally prove that adult children of divorce view life differently from their peers. This book will have an impact on parents who are deciding whether or not they should get a divorce, spouses of adult children of divorce, children of divorce and concerned legal persons who have never been able to hear the very voices of those who are effected by the legal aspects of divorce.

Other researchers disagree as to whether the effects of divorce are as long-range and as widespread as Wallerstein contends, but this reviewer found the book very convincing in its descriptions and analysis.

— Book Review by CRC staffer Jordana Ravick.

Co-authors with Wallerstein of "The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce" are Julia M. Lewis and Sandra Blakeslee. The 347 page book, published by Hyperion books, sells for $25, available on CRC's website bookstore Quickbuy, www.gocrc.com, or on order form in this issue.

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Around the Country and Abroad

Continued from page 13

- DADS Michigan sponsored a rally and National Tragedy observance at the main lobby/rotunda of the state capitol in Lansing. Speakers included a dozen notables from all three branches of state government, including supreme court justices, state house representatives, the assistant attorney general, and the director of child support enforcement.

  Representatives from domestic violence centers and law enforcement attended. The keynote address was delivered by CRC President David L. Levy, accompanied by Margaret Wuwert of CRC Ohio. CRC child spokesperson Hadassah Luther sang "God Bless America." About 75 people attended, with media coverage by Channel 5.

A special thank you goes to those who held "Home Vigils", which greatly helped to strengthen the message of Equal Parents' Week.

Contact Patti to provide help with Equal Parents' Week in September, 2002.

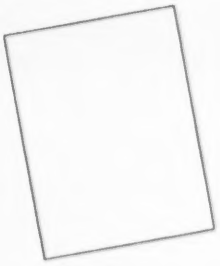
Phone and fax: 909/591-3689. Email: pattidiroff@worldnet.att.net Website: www.Members.tripod.com/CPWeek

CRC is a member of

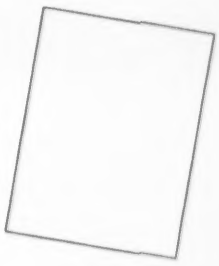
Children's Charities of America

Chapter and Affiliate Organization Highlights

Simon and Schuster to Publish CoMamas Book



Lynn Ringwood



Louise Ringwood-Oxhorn

Co Mamas will have its first book entitled "Step-wives", published by Simon and Schuster by Mother's Day, 2002. Simon and Schuster has committed to sending the Co Mamas, Lynn Ringwood and Louise Ringwood-Oxhorn, on a six-city tour for the book. That is an unusual commitment from a publisher.

Lynn and Louise were mom and stepmom, antagonistic to each other for years, until one day they sat down and decided they had a lot in common — the raising of Evan. They not only started cooperating, but took their cause nationally, with publicity, talking to other moms and stepmoms, and now this book, where Mothers and Stepmothers learn how to end their war.

The more than 200 pages contains a 10 step program that includes charts, checklists, and quizzes.

Point of Contact in Wyoming

Cori Erickson, head of Wyoming Children's Access Network, is CRC's new point of contact in the state of Wyoming. The Children's Access Network received a "2001 Best in Parenting" award at CRC's 13th national conference in May, 2001. The Network is a program to help parents who are divorced, separated, or never-married put together developmentally appropriate residence and parenting responsibility plans through parent education, and mediation. The Network has helped more than 1,200 parents during the past three years. Cori has two children, 6 year old Kael, and 9 year old Jordan, from a previous marriage. "I love what I do, and I believe that this Access Network has helped numerous families."

Contact Person in Maine

Tom Chandel, a divorced dad of three children, Renee, 15, Eric, 14, and Jake, 11, has agreed to be a contact person for CRC of Maine. Tom has worked in the custody reform movement in Maine for four years.

Jan and Tedd Brown, who previously headed the Maine CRC chapter, are working on establishing what may be the only Battered Men's Hotline in the U.S. For information, call tollfree at 1-877-643-1120, access code 0757.

CRC TO FILE CLASS ACTION LAW SUIT FOR SHARED PARENTING

At its 13th conference in May, 2001, CRC announced that it plans to file a class action lawsuit on behalf of the constitutional right by children to shared parenting by their fit mothers and fathers.

CRC had hoped to file this suit in 2001, but challenges faced in mounting a national lawsuit of this magnitude have been larger than anticipated. CRC hopes to file the suit in 2002, in federal district court in the District of Columbia, perhaps the most progressive of all the 13 federal circuit courts in the U.S. What CRC needs are:

1. **Funds.** To research, mount and publicize this suit could take $30,000 or more. Publicity is necessary to attract enough attention to the suit so that it is more likely to receive favorable media attention. Judges, like everyone else, can be affected by how an issue is viewed in the community.
2. **Lawyers.** CRC needs attorneys who are not only willing to help prepare the brief and related materials, but also to file non-CRC sponsored individual and class action lawsuits in the various states. We will provide attorneys with a model brief that can be adapted to filing in their states.
3. **Plaintiffs.** CRC needs plaintiffs—fit parents who have been denied shared parenting (joint custody) within recent months (not 5 years ago), as well as children who have sought shared parenting. Minors can not file suit on their own, but they can speak through a parent or court-appointed attorney. CRC needs mothers and children as well as fathers to be plaintiffs. Gender diversity among the plaintiff's class of litigants, along with the inclusion of children, will help minimize the gender politics issues from rearing its ugly head and keep the focus where it belongs—on a child's right and need for maximizing involvement of both fit parents. Although we need to focus on plaintiffs from the Washington, D.C. area, we need potential plaintiffs from anywhere in the country to demonstrate the universal nature of this problem. The suit will assert that federal constitutional law requires a natural rebuttable presumption for shared parenting.

This right is derived from the fundamental liberty interest of parents to participate fully in the upbringing, education, and training of their children, and to share fully in providing their children with love, nurture, and care.

Due process requires shared parenting for fit parents, and equal protection of the law means that divorced parents should have the same protection to the companionship of their children that married parents enjoy.

The hurdles will be formidable. For example, the U.S. Supreme Court has stated that parents have a fundamental liberty interest in the care and companionship of their children, but the court has never stated that such a right specifically applies to assure fit parents of shared parenting in the event of separation or divorce, or for never-married parents.

To make better law, we must break new ground.

Please support this effort.

For more information, contact CRC

Children's Father Dies—Grandparents' Access Denied

Jodi Luther

Justin

Kandice

Jodi Luther, brother of Hadassah Luther, CRC child spokesperson, and son of BettyJo and David Luther, died in an accident on the grounds of the family home in Amenia, New York, on May 5, 2001.

Jodi was a pilot for American Airlines (he loved flying, said his dad David). He built his own home, did sandblasting and welding, hiked nature trails, and rebuilt car engines.

He was 36 and left a 16 year old son, Justin, and a 10 year old daughter, Kandice. Jodi had full custody of the children in New York State, but the Luthers have not seen their grandchildren since Jodi's death, because of interference from the ex-wife.

They have not seen their grandchildren even though they live on the same property—5 acres of the 150 acre Luther farm in Dutchess County that his parents gave to Jodi to build a house. Jodi's ex-wife took over Jodi's house and keeps the children away from their grandparents. The Luthers are in court attempting to obtain access to their grandchildren.

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$500 CRC College Scholarship Available

Frank Banner

CRC will award a $500 scholarship in the Frank Banner III Scholarship Fund in 2002. More than one scholarship will be awarded, if contributions permit.

This scholarship fund was announced in early 2001, but no one applied by the May 15, 2001 deadline. See Fall 2000/Winter 2001 "Speak Out for Children."

The fund was established to acknowledge Frank Banner III, who turned 14 on September 9, 2001, but his dad could not wish him Happy Birthday. That's because young Frank was one of 160,000 children kidnapped by a parent each year.

Was Mr. Banner an abusive or neglectful parent? Hardly. He is a deputy U.S. Marshall, and his 6 other children turned out just fine.

In October, 2000, Mr. Banner received the worst news a parent can hear. One of his daughters, 31 year old Loretta Mae, was murdered. The killer was caught. The funeral was delayed until one of Banner's sons, Kiley, could return home from the U.S. military in Korea.

Mr. Banner is the head of CRC's Washington, D.C. chapter. He operates a transfer center for children and offers weekly parenting education classes. He also runs other programs, including programs in the African-American community. He has done so much at personal and financial sacrifice, as do many advocates for children across the country. CRC hopes this scholarship fund will focus attention on the plight of all children at risk of abuse, neglect, and abandonment, all of which factors are increased when the child does not have both a mother and a father in the child's life.

We welcome your tax-deductible contributions to the Frank Banner III College Scholarship Fund.

Only children or other high school students related to current national Children's Rights Council members are eligible to apply for the scholarship(s). See application information in the box to the right.

CRC Ohio Coordinator Margaret Wuwert and her family have donated to the Fund in memory of Margaret's father, Richard Bowers, who died October 24, 2001.

Instructions for Student Applicants

CRC will award at least one $500 scholarship to the Frank Banner III Scholarship Fund in 2002.

The rules for applying are:

- You must be related to a current member of the national Children's Rights Council. You should write no more than a two to three page letter to CRC. (Letters more than three pages long will not be read).

The letter should state the following:

1. Your name, address, telephone number and the date at the top of the letter;
2. The name and location of your high school;
3. What college you plan to attend in the Fall of 2002;
4. Your relationship (child, grandchild, other family member) to the member of national CRC. If unsure as to whether national membership is current, you or the adult can contact CRC;
5. Explain any struggle that you have had to overcome in your life, what you learned from it, and how it will help you in your college experience;
6. Tell us about yourself, your previous accomplishments, your future career goals or life expectations, and in what ways you would benefit from this scholarship;
7. Sign the letter; Attach unofficial transcripts and any other relevant documents, not to exceed an additional three pages.

Letter of recommendation from the CRC member and one other person, such as a counselor or teacher.

Letters should be addressed to:
Mr. Frank Banner Jr.
Children's Rights Council
College Scholarship Fund
300 "I" Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Letters must be received by May 15, 2002. Recipient(s) will be notified by June 10.

Bring Nashville Stars to Your City

Sponsor a Grand Ole Opry country music bus tour. The "bus" will include Grand Ole Opry member Ernie Ashworth, 13-year-old Nashville Young Vocalist Award Winner Hadassah Luther and other rising country stars. Contact Betty Jo Luther at 1-800--DLuther for more information.

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National Affiliate Organizations and Chapters

International

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CRC of Sierra Leone
Yotiro Kargbo
3505 Covered Bridge Lane
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phone and fax: 703/897-7845
and
Esther Kargbo
7 Sanai Abacha Street
Freetown, Sierra Leone
phone: 011-23-2-22222-8682

National Affiliate Organizations

Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC)
Jennifer Isham, coordinator
website only: http: www.motherswithoutcustody.org

Stepfamily Association of America (SAA)
Margorie Engel, Ph.D., president
Larry Kallemyn, Executive Director
650 J Street, Suite 205
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
phone: 402/477-7837
1-800/735-0329
Joint membership in SAA and CRC: $35.00 for the first year

Parenting Coalition International, Inc.
Belinda Rollins, president
1025 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Suite 6156
Washington, D.C. 20036
phone: 202/530-0849
website: www.parentingcoalition.org

Co Mamas
Louise Oxhorn and Lynne Ringwood-Oxhorn
P.O. Box 231804
Encinitas, CA 92023
phone: 760/942-4572
email: feelgood@comamas.com

State Chapters

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